

JULY 24, 2003

# Real Change

Reaching Out to End Poverty • Volume 10, No. 16

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Inside: Nicastro Sounds Off • Death Stalks the Streets • Eviction in the ID

COVER GRAPHIC BY GREG STUMP.

## The Big Empty

**Puget Sound's business bust has meant high unemployment and vacant commercial space. Why not make those new office towers home?**

By Jess Grant

**T**hirty-eight stories up, looking out over Seattle through the floor-to-ceiling windows of the new IDX

Tower at Fourth and Madison, the problems of homeless people seem pretty remote. I can't see the huddled figures sleeping on the lawn next to the county building at Third and Yesler, or smell the urine in the alley nearby. Yet here I am, talking with Ty Benyon, an agent for Hines (the building's manager) about the possibility of converting this empty shell of a floor into an emergency shelter.

To his credit, Mr. Benyon is taking my proposal seriously. He's been kind enough to give us a tour of the IDX

Tower, Seattle's first skyscraper to open since Key Tower in 1990. The building is about 90 percent occupied, not bad considering it only opened in January. That's better than Seattle's commercial real estate market in general, which is struggling with a vacancy rate of 16 percent (according to a report issued this spring by Cushman and Wakefield Real Estate Services). But that's better than the Bellevue market, where vacancy rates exceed 25 percent.

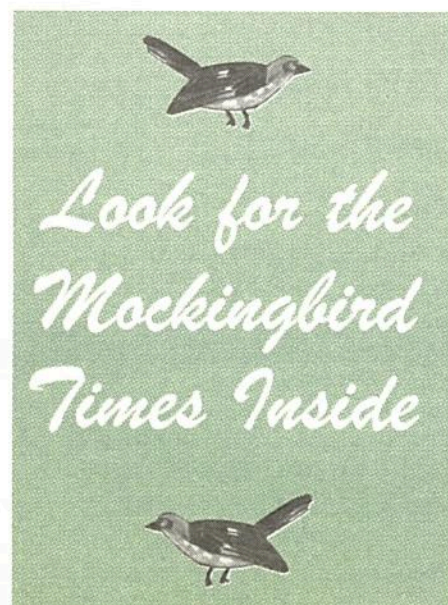
The Cushman and Wakefield report got me thinking. With 5.7 million square feet of vacant commercial space in Seattle, how is it possible that people are sleeping on the streets? There are plenty of pragmatic answers, of course, but none that satisfied me. What kind of society lets its citizens live outdoors,

exposed to criminals and at the mercy of the weather, while office space goes begging? I decided to ask around. What would it take to convert this usable space to temporary housing?

Depending on who you talk to, such a project is either hopelessly impractical or easily accomplished. One local housing activist (who preferred to remain anonymous) thinks the roadblocks are political, not logistical: "We've operated shelters in commercial space without occupancy permits before. What is required is the political will to make it happen. That is unfortunately missing in city government right now."

Tom Hoban, the CEO of Coast Real

Continued on Page 13



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## Protecting the "poverty draft"

Dear Editor,

I am a grandmother who can feel the anguish of the families of young men and women sent to Iraq although I oppose the Bush war policies and their effects on veterans.

At least 10,000 soldiers are still in Iraq and we haven't even been told how long they will stay. But we know from experience that many won't show serious health problems until much later.

So I am impressed when the national commander of the American Legion says, "There is a veterans' health crisis in our country and the public isn't aware of it. Our young men and women are sent off to war only to return to a health care system that is falling apart."

Though "only" 157 U.S. soldiers were killed in the Gulf War out of 722,000 total soldiers in Iraq, 200,000 (30 percent) of that total have since been listed as casualties.

These vets need not only hospital care for wounds and for research; they need help for mental and drug problems.

Children of Gulf War vets are showing up with abnormalities from exposure to depleted uranium (Uranium 235). Iraqi soldiers show a 200 percent increase in symptoms of U-235 exposure. U-235 has a radioactive half-life of 4.5 billion years — the age of our earth.

On May 10 of this year, the U.S. Senate passed a Budget Resolution Conference report advanced by Congressional Republicans and President George W. Bush. It includes \$1 billion for discretionary health spending on veterans' health care — which barely covers inflation in the Department of Veterans' current spending. It squeezes this out of such

things as research into spinal injuries and other wounds.

Veterans Administration offices are told not to give vets information about all the programs they are entitled to — due to inadequate funding. The VA expects to save \$1.4 billion from higher fees and from eliminating all coverage for 380,000 veterans.

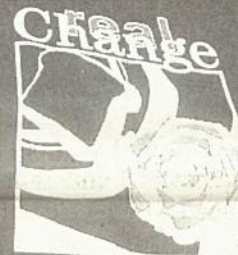
On vet, Ernesto A. Tafoya, has been waiting for more than two and a half years for an appointment, even though he was listed as 100 percent disabled at his time of discharge.

The "poverty draft" sent young men and women to fight in Iraq. I think the government owes them a lot more for their current and future needs than the Bush budget provides.

**BJ Mangaoang**  
Seattle

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Poor and Homeless**

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Mission Statement:

*Real Change* organizes, educates, and builds alliances to create solutions to homelessness and poverty. We exist to provide a voice for poor people in our community.

Goals

Provide a foundation for grassroots organizing.  
Publish the views of marginalized communities.  
Create direct economic opportunity. Build bridges with a broad range of allies in the struggle against poverty.

The *Real Change* Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Programs include the *Real Change* newspaper, the *MacWorkshop* computer lab, the *StreetWrites* peer support group for homeless writers, the *Homeless Speakers Bureau*, and the *First things First* organizing project. All donations support these programs and are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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Articles appearing in *Real Change* reflect the opinions and perspectives of the authors. We encourage the submission of journalism, opinion, fiction, poetry, and artwork, and hope to create a forum where the many perspectives on poverty and homelessness can find expression. *Real Change* reserves the right to edit any material for length and style. Articles considered libelous or which encourage violence, sexism, homophobia, or racism will not be considered for publication.



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# Cheap Shot

Why the deaths, and lives, of homeless people matter

By Adam Holdorf

Sandra Lee Smiscon, 45, was sleeping in the park by the King County Courthouse near Fourth Avenue and Yesler Way in the early morning hours of July 12. A man on the overpass above had drawn his gun after someone set off firecrackers nearby. He fired; it's still unclear whether he shot at Sandra, or at someone else, or at nothing. She was killed by a bullet in her stomach.

Sandra's shooting was tragic, crazy, unpredictable. She had a family: Press reports have quoted them remembering a woman who enjoyed taking care of others, whose heart broke when her young children were taken away, who partied to excess. Even though she was sleeping in the park the night she was shot, she had a home, her 74-year-old mother says, back in Wapato. That's where they buried her daughter, in a traditional Yakama Nation ceremony.

As crazy and unpredictable as Sandra's death was, its circumstances are shared by at least a dozen people who've died homeless and outside since the beginning of the year. Earlier this month, Stephanie Perez was shot within the same block as Sandra. Randall Townsend, 42, was beaten to death in Tacoma in April. Ronald

With adequate shelter for all; with decent health care; with a community that could respond to the needs of each; with a society that honored and sustained the intrinsic value of all people — things might have been very different. We are all, to some degree, responsible for the conditions that killed Sandra Smiscon.

Preston was shot to death in Seattle's Central Area in February. A month before that, Christine LeDoty, 38, was beaten to death in Auburn.

In a horrific seasonal cycle, people die from gunshots in the summertime and from trying to stay warm in the winter. This January, 51-year-old Lino Martinez was overcome by exhaust fumes in the car he slept in on Beacon Hill. He was probably running his motor to keep warm. Two months later, 52-year-old Steven Lundstedt died in a burning shed where he'd built a fire.

There are other causes: heart disease, acute intoxication, pneumonia. There are unknown causes: a woman's decomposing body was found in her tent at 10th Avenue and Spruce Street last month.

These deaths hardly make the news.

The county Medical Examiner searches for next-of-kin. Any family members get a phone call they may or may not have been expecting. If no one claims the remains, the body is cremated and the ashes are stored in a kind of potter's field.

Imagine that each of these deaths was preventable. With adequate shelter for all; with decent health care; with a family that was whole; with a community that could respond to the needs of each; with a society that honored and sustained the intrinsic value of all people — things might have been very different. Instead, we have dry ashes and dull, dutiful next-of-kin searches. We are all, to some degree, responsible for the conditions that killed Sandra Smiscon. And so we are accountable for these deaths.

Radio host Michael Savage (recently fired from MSNBC for telling a presumably gay caller to "get AIDS and die") said last year that "in a sane society," homeless people "would be beaten up, thrown in a van, and thrown in a work camp." Randall Townsend's killers put that thought to action when they supposed Townsend was a drug-using "parasite" on society. Who hasn't thought the same thing of someone, sometime? Who hasn't prescribed a solution without investigating the problem?

It's a measurement of this area's greatness when we make provisions for people who don't have food, shelter, or work. A place to get clean with hot and cold running water; a meal served with dignity; the promise of a good job; a place to go at night. These are all badges of civilization. It's a mark of shame that people doing vital work don't make enough money to support themselves, while the state's most highly-paid public employee invests his money in a neighborhood betting pool. While people in this region are still wanting, we haven't reached our potential.

And where does this smudge of shame get us? We are left with a general insecurity that hovers over our brightest days. That could be me, out there, sitting in the park with nothing to do, waiting in line for a glop of free dinner, passed out, drunk, and vomiting on a hot sidewalk.

*Real Change* works to build a bridge between vendors, who tend to be homeless, and the reading public. You, the reader, exchange this paper for a dollar. Possibly, you and the vendor make a little conversation. You listen. When you speak, remember Sandra and Randall and Lino and the others. Lives are saved through conversation. ■

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## Methadone OK'd in Everett

The Everett City Council has lifted a moratorium on drug treatment facilities, and Snohomish County's first methadone clinic will soon serve hundreds of drug-addicted people.

Therapeutic Health Services, which treats 250 Snohomish County residents at its Seattle-area centers, has twice applied for a city permit to open a methadone clinic in the downtown Everett area. NIMBY complaints prompted the Everett City Council to impose a moratorium on building permits for all treatment centers. The city rewrote land use code to permit the clinic — but in a commercial strip further away from downtown.

The state Division of Drugs, Alcohol, and Substance Abuse has estimated that about 1,000 Snohomish County residents would use opiate-substitute treatment clinics like Everett's. A second clinic is opening within the county, on Stillaguamish tribal land, later this year. In lifting the moratorium July 16, the council acknowledged that studies have proved that methadone clinics don't drive up crime in neighborhoods in which they're located, and that Snohomish County residents are forced to travel south to King County daily to get treatment.

King, Pierce, Thurston, Spokane, and Yakima counties are the only counties in the state with opiate-substitute clinics. ■

— Adam Holdorf

## International District exile

Rather than continue to operate an apartment building at a loss, the owners of the 150-unit Publix Hotel are asking the residents to move out.

Seventy-two of the building's tenants have moved out in the last year or so, leaving nearly half the building vacant. The 78 left, all men, are mostly low-income and between 40 and 60 years of age. Their home is owned by a corporation headed by Toshi Moriguchi, a member of the family that started the *Uwajimaya Asian grocery store*. It is one block north of Uwajimaya in Seattle's International District.

The state Department of Health determined that substantial repairs and renovations were needed in order for the owner to continue operating legally. The Department of Health is responsible for inspecting and regulating the state's hotels, and the Publix, a single-room occupancy building where residents share bathrooms, is technically a hotel. The costs "are significant and are beyond the financial capability of the owner at this time, since they state that they have been operating the Publix at a loss for the last couple of years," says Stella Chao, executive director of the International District Housing Alliance.

Chao's organization is helping the residents find another place to live.

A meeting on Friday, July 11, was attended by about 50 residents; Chao says tenants voiced "realistic and valuable questions about the closure and relocation."

When the residents are gone at the end of August, the building will stand vacant. Chao says that the owners "are not ready to commit to anything at this time, or commit large funds to keep it open." ■

— Adam Holdorf

## Outdoor meals program moves

After months of dilly-dallying, the City of Seattle has found a place for the free outdoor meals served at the Public Safety Plaza [RC June 12]. Diners and meal providers will move just one block away, to City Hall Park, at the south side of the King County Courthouse on Third and Yesler.

Twelve meals per week are being served at the Public Safety Plaza, which faces the old Municipal Building on Fourth Avenue between James and Cherry Street downtown. The building is being torn down in August, and construction crews need to set up shop on the open space at the Plaza.

The free feeds once took place in Pioneer Square's Occidental Park, but they were moved to the Plaza in 1992 to accommodate the concerns of area merchants. Each month, thousands of people — most, but not all, of them homeless — line up at the Plaza to get food. Last year, volunteers handed out more than 226,000 meals there.

City Councilmember Richard McIver has said he will continue to urge the city Human Services Department to find a permanent, indoor site for the free



meals. Moving indoors would get hungry people out of the rain; it might also provide a kitchen to the meal providers who have to prepare food elsewhere and then pack it over. ■

— Adam Holdorf

## Janitors win labor talks

Community support and organized effort won a new contract that preserves employer-paid family health insurance and raises wages for 2,500 Seattle janitors on Wednesday, July 9.

Currently, union janitors in the region are paid \$8.85 to \$11.40 an hour and get health insurance for themselves and their families. Their non-union counterparts typically make between \$7.00 and \$8.50 an hour, with no benefits. The new contract grants a \$1.20-per-hour pay raise, phased in over the next four years, and health benefits will rise in value by \$2.10 per hour. Workers can also take up to three weeks of unpaid leave without losing their jobs.

The new contract between downtown cleaning companies and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 6 was ratified just a few days after janitors handed out spare rolls of toilet paper to downtown office workers, making the effects of a strike stunningly clear. ■

— Adam Holdorf

## Green building

A new Belltown building is the first affordable housing development to meet national standards for energy efficiency and environmentally-friendly design. City officials say it's a model for inexpensive, efficient buildings of the future.

Traugott Terrace, located at Third Avenue between Bell and Battery Street, will be awarded the National Environmental Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification — a sign that an assortment of techniques have been used to tread less heavily on the earth's resources.

To meet the LEED standards, builders recycled wood and paper waste during construction, used steel and insulation made of recycled materials, and installed "low-flow" plumbing fixtures, low-energy lighting, and a gearless elevator. The elevator alone will knock about \$2,000 off the building's annual energy bill; the plumbing will reduce it by an additional \$9,000.

"While these things are unusual, they tend not to be more expensive than conventional materials," says Bart Becker of the city Office of Housing, which helped pay for the building's construction. And their less wasteful use of electricity, water, or gas means that "they always save money over time."

There was an incentive to the innovations: Seattle City Light gave Traugott's developer one of the agency's Built Smart grants, that pays multi-family housing developers to learn, understand, and implement environmentally-friendly design. The Built Smart grant is part of a green-building effort that began several years ago, when the city required sustainable building practices in all city-owned capitol projects larger than 5,000 square feet. As the city followed its new rules, it literally wrote the book on green building. It's called *SeaGreen: Greening Seattle's Affordable Housing* and is used as a guide to construction managers.

Becker says the city hopes that Traugott Terrace has shown the way for other environmentally friendly, energy efficient designs. From now on, when affordable housing builders apply to his department for construction money, they'll get a greater chance of getting funding if they incorporate such practices into the blueprints.

Owned by the Archdiocesan Housing Authority, Traugott Terrace is a 50-unit building for extremely low-income and formerly homeless people. Some of the residents will be participants in an addiction treatment program offered by the Matt Talbot Center on the building's ground floor. ■

— Adam Holdorf



*Do you have any stories we should look into? Call Adam at 441-3247, ext. 207, and just maybe we will.*



# Nicastro Speaks

Incumbent candidate says she's won the winnable fights

By Adam Holdorf

Say whatever you want about first-term city councilmember Judy Nicastro. You won't be the first. From her mysterious flip-flops at former City Light superintendent Gary Zarker's reconfirmation, to her public barbs against Mayor Greg Nickels, to her stand against last year's affordable housing levy — not since Charlie Chong has one member of the City Council generated so much heat.

All the turmoil makes for great entertainment, but what has this renter's rights advocate done in her time on Council? What can people concerned about racial and economic justice in our embattled city hope for from four more Nicastro years?

Nicastro responds that one thing she can be counted on is to speak her mind. "No one agrees with me 100 percent," she says. "I am truly an independent elective official. I have a lot of Republican supporters because I take stances that they believe in."

And they can count on her to approach her office with her social back-

ground in mind. "I am thoroughly working class... I am the only renter on this council," she says. "Come January [when her first term expires] I'm the only one who, if I was out of my position, would need a job to pay the rent."

Nicastro's background has driven her work on several fronts. In her first year on City Council, she brought hundreds of tenants and landlords to Seattle Center for an all-day Renter's Summit, discussing difficult conditions in the city's housing market. She put teeth in the city's landlord-tenant retaliation ordinance, making the City Attorney's Office take on more cases of tenants aggrieved by a landlord's unjust eviction.

Last summer, as city officials and housing advocates were haggling over the contents of a new housing levy, the Seattle Housing Authority announced

plans for a rent increase in the city's senior housing projects. Nicastro, whose elderly mother lives in the city, successfully pushed to get SHA's plans changed. And she urged voters to reject the city's new housing levy because of its financial support for moderate-income homebuyers — families making up to \$62,000 a year.

Of the \$86 million property tax levy, \$7.8 million will help people buy homes. Some, but not all, of that \$7.8 million goes to moderate-income people. Nicastro is still irritated by that aspect of the levy, which passed last September despite her opposition.

There are other things that tick her off: the city's "civility laws" banning homeless people from parks and prohibiting sitting down on public sidewalks are "mean spirited" and "don't make the city cleaner, better, or safer." The Pioneer Square neighborhood's efforts to be designated a so-called Alcohol Impact Area, a place where cheap liquor isn't sold, is tantamount to "class warfare." When the city bans booze in one neighborhood, "all we're doing is keeping people moving around and not dealing with the problem. Nobody stops drinking because of the Alcohol Impact Area down in Pioneer Square."



But these are issues that can't be brought up in City Hall. Because the other thing Nicastro can be counted on, she says, is to be realistic. "There aren't the votes" to overturn civility codes, she says. "I've been working on things that are tangible."

Some of that has paid off, in terms of gaining friends from factions that wouldn't normally support a renters' advocate. Her base of supporters has broadened to include high-rise developers Martin Selig and Richard Hedreen, who Nicastro says share her desire for greater building density downtown. She went Hedreen's way on a controversial vote last fall that pitted the hotel developer against the city's union leaders. Hedreen sought to renew high-rise development rights he had bought from the city years ago.

While the council narrowly granted Hedreen's wish, Mayor Nickels vetoed the vote and Hedreen went back to the drawing board. Since then, one employee at the R.C. Hedreen Co. and one Elizabeth Hedreen have granted the tenants' candidate \$1,300.

**Total campaign money raised so far:** more than \$170,000 as of July 1. Biggest contributors: \$2,300 coming from employees of the City of Seattle; \$1,650 from Microsofties; \$900 from people employed by Martin Selig. ■

*Next issue: A profile of incumbent Margaret Pageler*



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Approximately 62 percent of Iowa's homeless population is 21 or younger, according to a recently released report from Iowa's Interagency Taskforce on Homelessness. The national average for homeless youth lies between 20 and 40 percent. The report shows that 22,639 young people in Iowa were homeless at some point during the 2001-2002 school year, according to the *Des Moines Register* ([www.dmregister.com](http://www.dmregister.com)). Because the report did not take into account the homeless youth who were not in school, the true number of youth living without a home is most likely higher. When asked to speculate on why the homeless rate among youth was so high, Iowa officials highlighted the state's poor economy, the lack of affordable housing and mental health care, and the high rate of domestic violence. Yet even a professor who has been studying homeless youth in the area for the past three years, Les Whitbeck, didn't have an answer for the *Des Moines Register* about what the most at-risk of homeless youth are truly going through: "Literally nobody knows what happens to these kids."

Starting this month, asking for a dime on the streets of Cincinnati could get you arrested. The Cincinnati City Council approved a new ordinance in June requiring panhandlers to register with the city, according to the *Cincinnati Post* ([www.cincypost.com](http://www.cincypost.com)). Anyone who verbally requests money, goods, or other services in the city limits has to obtain an identification card issued by the police department though the city's health department. If you ask for money without the ID, you'd run the risk of being cited for breaking the law. Violators will get a warning for their first offense, and then possible fines and/or jail time for subsequent offenses. Supporters of the ordinance claim that the law is needed to curb aggressive panhandling in the downtown area. Opponents counter that the money that will be spent implementing the new law would be better spent helping homeless people find jobs and housing so they don't have to panhandle in the first place.

Panhandlers in Vancouver, WA, also got bad news this month when the city council approved an ordinance cracking down on people who obstruct traffic and intimidate tourists while asking for money and goods. The new law, which comes with steep fines and the possibility of jail time for subsequent violations,

goes into effect August 8, according to *The Oregonian* ([www.oregonlive.com](http://www.oregonlive.com)).

While complaining about late night noise is usually the function of uptight NIMBYs, a homeless shelter in St. Louis has started to fight nearby late-night clubs, which shelter staff say undermine the kind of environment they're trying create for their shelter residents. "We believe the late-night hours foster a bad environment, with noise and disorderly behavior," the Rev. Ray Redlich, assistant director of the New Life Evangelistic Center, told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* ([www.stltoday.com](http://www.stltoday.com)). "It's important for the community to see that homeless people long for a safe and livable place." The shelter staff has already collected a dozen signatures from some of the shelter's residents opposing liquor licenses for two clubs in the area. Blake Brokaw, president of the Washington Entertainment District Association, counters that homeless people are the ones who are harassing downtown residents and visitors and are the real "blight" on the area. Yet with 66 registered voters living in the shelter, their collective voice could have an impact, as one petition signer and shelter resident, Richard Wesley, told the *Post-Dispatch*. "This is where they live," said the former steelworker. "Why shouldn't they have a voice? We're still citizens of St. Louis, and a lot of us won't be down forever." ■

— Compiled by Molly Rhodes

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# poetry

## Does do

Does it really matter  
what the beggar is gonna  
not truly really  
once and nearly realization  
the giver is the getter  
(personally I dig saying thank you to the  
receiver)  
Do to the do's  
like perfect algebra  
A sweet check without the mate  
Really the handout looks exactly that,  
a hand up towards a loving heart  
Does it ever?  
Does it ever feel good to walk by somebody  
and tighten up because it was so hard to  
get that little nickel?  
It hurts the heart that walking by what looks  
like pain  
No it don't amount to anything to give  
nothing,  
nor care where something goes after it's  
gone  
Lots to drop.  
Not much there to keep that  
extra spare love.

—ROBERTO VALENZA

SAN FRANCISCO'S MISSION DISTRICT, JULY 19

## She

She who runs with wolves is a mysterious one.  
Always crouching in shadows.  
Rarely seen but for eyes and teeth.  
Occasionally she smiles

It's the nature of her game.  
Hiding like a devil in the night.  
The hunger she has for the hunt  
drives her from her den like a criminal.

—GALAXIE S. STARLINER



### Adventures in Poetry with ©Dr. Wes Browning

Last issue we read about *beerforthehomeless.com* (North American Newsbriefs, July 10). Those are the people in Chattanooga, Tenn., who are collecting donations to pass out beer for the homeless.

We love this idea. We (I mean I myself of course) have been saying for years that homeless people have as much right to decide for themselves whether they should imbibe alcoholic beverages as homeful people do.

What we really delight in is this information from the FAQ page at *beerforthehomeless.com*: "... the fact is that less than half of the homeless we visit accept our beer." Bearing in mind that they are only talking about Chattanooga, nevertheless someone has finally succeeded in finding a way to substantiate our long-stated observation that most homeless people aren't alcoholics, they're just people who don't have a proper place to live at the moment.

And what a straightforward method of proof it is. "Let's pass the stuff out and see who takes it!" To think that researchers have probably wasted tens of thousands of dollars for years trying to figure this one out with pencils and surveys.

The website also gives me hope by reminding me that there are decent generous people out there who really get it. It makes me want to acknowledge all the great generous folks I have encountered and benefited from over the years.

Yours truly (like most homeless people!) has never panhandled. Partly this is because I always found things to sell when I was broke. For example, there was the day I sold the naming rights to parts of my body. I started the day out with nothing. I charged one dollar for the naming rights to each body part. My first customer was this rag's founder, Timothy Harris, who paid a dollar to name my liver "Intrepid."

Altogether I earned \$12 doing that. But I have also found that if you just go about your life and do nothing unusual, money can be pushed into your hands even AGAINST YOUR WILL!

For example, early one morning I was pacing back and forth in between St. James Cathedral and the Rectory. I was pacing because I was early for an appointment and had nowhere else to go, being too broke to go to a café or anywhere else. I wasn't panhandling, I didn't have my hand out, but along came this tall guy in a suit smoking a cigar and wouldn't you know it? He walks right up to my face, whips out a twenty and stuffs it into my shirt pocket, saying, "A friend told me to put this in the poor box, but I'd rather give it to someone who looks like they know what to do with it."

Another time I was in Belltown and on the street, so I visited the Denny Regrade Park at Third and Bell to relax a while. Right after I sat down in the

**Someone has finally succeeded in substantiating our long-stated observation that most homeless people aren't alcoholics, they're just people who don't have a proper place to live.**

park, two strangers sat down next to me and struck up a friendly conversation. They were openly passing a beer back and forth and generously offered me some. I know what you're all thinking. You're thinking that, OK, maybe most homeless people aren't alcoholics, but Dr. Wes has a liver named Intrepid and for sure he's a lush and there's no way he would turn

down free malt liquor in the park.

But there IS a way! For one thing, I hate the taste of malt liquor. I prefer lager, thank you. For another, I can't enjoy drinking any alcoholic beverages openly in a park with police looking over my shoulder. I told my new friends that they were at risk of being busted. Sure enough, only a minute later two security officers pedaled up and poured out the bottle. So the guys decided to leave the park and I tagged along so we could continue talking.

We were not 20 feet out of the park when an older guy with a torn T-shirt saw us and said, "You guys look like you could use some beer. Here, take this \$10 and get yourselves a couple of pitchers."

Yes, there is hope for humanity! ■





# Rumpelstiltskin

for Anne Sexton

This is the story of the miller's daughter.  
She could have been the daughter of a cabinetmaker or legal clerk.  
The important thing is she's a daughter.

The miller, her father, as you can imagine,  
Wanted her to marry well. What did she want?  
Why, what her daddy wanted, of course, or to survive.  
Freedom hadn't been invented yet.

She was pretty, naturally, or there would be no story.  
Someone started a rumor she could spin straw  
Into gold and the king heard it. For him  
This was a real point in her favor.

So, with a gleam in his eye he ordered her brought  
To a garret room where there was a spinning wheel  
And a pile of straw. Sit here, he said,  
And spin this straw into gold.  
The door closed.

The miller's daughter cried and paced.  
She stood on the stool and peered out  
The high narrow window. She picked up  
*A handful of straw and touched it to the wheel.*  
Clutching straw, she sank to the floor.

Her eyes dull as old aluminum  
Her skin the color of dying daisies  
Her hands limp as dead birds  
By the side of the road.  
She prayed  
and made wild promises to God.

Suddenly there  
appeared (as you might imagine)  
A little man.  
My business is business, he said.  
Leave this to me. She could have  
Kissed him in her relief, but he  
Was not interested in her gratitude.

He said he would put her on a delayed payment plan.  
Zero money down.

The eyes from your head.  
The blood of your will.  
The bodies of your children.

It seemed fair enough to the miller's daughter  
In the press of the moment.

And so he spun the straw into gold.  
Not once, of course, but many times (as you may imagine).

And she forgot and was happy and married the king  
And had children. All was well until she noticed him  
Behind the diapers in the bedroom,  
Outside the supermarket,  
Flitting in her vision through the TV room:  
Do you remember?  
Do you remember what you owe?

The words sounded in her head like thuds on the porch:

The eyes of my head  
The blood of my will  
The bodies of my children.

She put on her makeup  
Straightened her blouse, smoothed her hair,  
With light quick movements  
As we touch the dead. She smiled,  
The corners of her mouth jumping  
Like electric wires. Surely, she said  
There's something else you want?

He looked at her as one considering  
A restaurant on the highway.  
Yes, he said, there is something else.  
She closed the cage of her throat  
On a black and yellow scream.

My name, he said. Can you guess it?  
He laughed with a sound  
Like rocks falling on the sidewalk.  
If you can, I will go away.  
If not I will take  
The eyes from your head  
The blood of your will  
The bodies of your children  
And carry them away to the forest.

She thought of the forest  
Silent and unyielding  
As a row of gym lockers.  
You have a week, he said, and was gone utterly  
As little men can be.

The week was years for her.  
The first day she sat in the closet  
Like a pile of laundry.  
The second day she walked around her bedroom,  
Her hands covering her face remembering her mother's womb,  
Her grandmother's bed and beyond that  
As one remembers the houses of childhood.  
After that, she walked in the sun.  
Studied her reflection in bookstore windows.

During the long nights the faulty shadows  
Of her room embraced her and the rumble of passing trucks  
Sounded like answers.  
She used her head.  
She did what she had to do.  
She was not afraid.  
She knew his name.

Then he appeared, smug as a briefcase.  
Goldman? She said, hugging her knowledge  
Like a twenty dollar bill. No. He glittered.  
Sanchez? No. He trembled. His fingers twitched.  
Rumpelstiltskin?

His eyes grew round as moldy tomatoes.  
He went limp as a week-old carrot.  
He disappeared before her eyes  
Like a cloud of exhaust in the driveway.

—ELIZABETH ROMERO [1981]



# Book Reviews

## The Underground Economy

**Reefer Madness: Sex, Drugs, and Cheap Labor in the American Black Market**

By Eric Schlosser  
Houghton Mifflin Co., 2003.  
\$23.00. 310 pp.

Review by Silja J.A. Talvi

**"T**he chief business of the American people is business," President Calvin Coolidge once said.

America's dream à la Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* was the creation of a true, free-market democracy where people's freedoms and capitalism's endeavors could thrive side by side. But Coolidge had it right after all, insofar as business interests long ago surpassed the common interests of the people.

And the triumph of Blue Chip Fortune 500 corporate entities notwithstanding, there is arguably no aspect of America's business culture more persistent and more wildly profitable than its underground economy.

Largely undocumented and underexamined, America's underground economy — including drugs, porn, and under-the-table labor — is where it's at. Although no truly accurate statistical study of the black market economy has ever been undertaken, the informed estimates put the size of the market at nearly 10 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, pulling in no less than \$650 billion a year.

With a knack for honing in on the nation's biggest untold stories, *Fast Food Nation* author and investigative journalist Eric Schlosser turns his attention to America's black market economy in his newest book, *Reefer Madness*.

In three essays, "Reefer Madness," "Strawberry Fields," and "An Empire of the Obscene," Schlosser ties together three primary aspects of the American underground — and the ways that they have changed our lives for better and for worse. The common thread between them all, argues Schlosser, is that they're inextricably linked to the mainstream. Whether we want it or not, the black market is here to stay.

"If the market does indeed embody the sum of all human wishes," as Schlosser writes, "then the secret ones are just as important as the ones that are openly displayed. Like the yin and yang, the mainstream and the underground are ultimately two sides of the same thing. To know a country you must see it whole."

In "An Empire of the Obscene," Schlosser uses the untold story of sex industry maven Reuben Sturman—a contemporary of Hugh Hefner—to illustrate pornography's passage from outlaw industry to a marginalized but legitimized arm of American capitalism. While Hefner's Playboy enterprise turned into a teeming empire, Sturman's once-successful ventures

into sexual novels, magazines, toys, adult bookstores, peep booths, and home videos eventually landed him in prison on tax-evasion charges. (Sturman died behind bars in 1997.)

While Schlosser's careful recounting of Sturman's story does make for fascinating reading, his interspersing of ho-hum interviews with the likes of Larry Flynt and porn star Nina Hartley makes for a jaggedly-paced chapter with an incomplete theme.

In the end, readers are to understand that the adult entertainment industry is a case in point where the underground-meets-mainstream phenomenon is concerned. (The spending by American consumers on adult entertainment amounts to between \$8 - \$10 billion, and much of it on ordering hotel porn.) Despite interesting factoids and an excellent grasp of the history of pornography in the U.S., little else by way of black market theory is advanced here. Schlosser's detached, dry treatment of a potentially scintillating chapter is ultimately a disappointment for readers looking for a bit more bite to the story behind the scenes of the X-rated industry.

In "Strawberry Fields," Schlosser digs beneath the soil of the blood-red strawberry fields to find an industry consisting of some of the poorest workers in the U.S. Fully 30 to 60 percent of the migrant workers in California, Schlosser reports, are illegal immigrants, who earn less than \$7,500 annually for backbreaking manual labor.

"Their willingness to work long hours for low wages has enabled California to sustain agricultural production despite the loss of more than 9 million acres of farmland since 1964," he writes. "Illegal immigrants, widely reviled and often depicted as welfare cheats, are in effect subsidizing the most important sector of the California economy."

Schlosser hones in on the strawberry picking industry because it is considered the hardest — and least well-compensated — work in the verdant fruit and vegetable fields of Central California. "*La fruta del diablo*" — the fruit of the devil — as it is known to the workers who spend their days stooped over the strawberry fields earning a piece-rate of \$1.25 a box.

To add insult to injury, many labor-

ers spend their nights sleeping in crowded garages, cars, and damp caves in the hills above the fields. While Schlosser's use of imagery is powerful, he draws this chapter to a quick close, leaving one scant paragraph to develop a conclusion heavy on rhetoric. Where farmworkers are concerned, the gross injustices are evident. Yet telling readers that the market is ruthless in its treatment of these workers is far from an eye-opening revelation — and falls short of a renewed call to action with regard to the plight and welfare of migrant laborers.

By contrast, Schlosser's most effective display of compelling, tightly-woven narrative journalism is showcased in the book's first chapter, "Reefer Madness," in which the author picks and pulls apart the fallacious logic of the American drug war.

Schlosser sets his sights on marijuana, a crop that produces as much as \$25 million in profits annually. (By comparison, the nation's largest legal cash crop, corn, generates about \$19 billion.) An estimated 20 million Americans smoke marijuana, and some 2 million smoke it every single day. And in 5,000 years of the plant's recorded use as a medicinal, religious, and recreational hallucinogenic plant, not a single death has been attributed to the overconsumption of weed. (In fact, Schlosser cites scientific research that a person would have to smoke one hundred pounds of marijuana a minute — for 15 consecutive minutes — to die of an overdose.)

In this sense, marijuana is as American as apple pie. But more people are in prison today for marijuana-related offenses than at any other time in U.S. history — a consequence of a mind-numbing 724,000 marijuana-related arrests in 2001 — and Schlosser shows no mercy in criticizing a moralistic legal and criminal justice system that condemns these pot smokers to lengthy prison terms.

"How does a society come to punish a man more harshly for selling marijuana than for killing someone with a gun?" asks Schlosser rhetorically.

Schlosser is not given to exaggerative flourish simply for the sake of making a salient point. In many ways, the reality of the drug war is already worse than the our worst fantasy could have ever made this out to be. Today, many dozens of non-violent marijuana of-

fenders are serving life sentences in federal and state penitentiaries with no hope of parole. Tens of thousands more are doing decades behind bars for small possession and dealing charges, while child molesters, rapists, and repeat violent offenders serve four, eight, and 15-year sentences. When they are released from prison, they are still eligible for most public benefits. Drug offenders, on the other hand, lose it all: educational assistance, property, and eligibility for public housing and public assistance.

Across the country, Schlosser finds ample evidence of the extent to which prosecutors will go to implement the no-tolerance approach of several decades' worth of presidential administration. (The Clinton administration, as Schlosser notes, was no exception: the number of annual marijuana arrests more than doubled during his administration, reaching the highest level in U.S. history.)

In Indiana, Schlosser finds Mark Young, sentenced to life without parole in 1992 at the age of 38 for introducing two people who planned to buy and sell seven hundred pounds of marijuana. Young had no priors, no history of violence, and was not himself in possession of the marijuana, any money, or physical evidence linking him to the sale.

In Oklahoma, Schlosser finds even more outrageous cases, including the case of Larry Jackson, who was arrested after a police officer noticed a "miniscule" amount of marijuana (0.005644 of an ounce) on his apartment floor. Jackson, a small-time crook, received a life sentence for the felony marijuana offense.

Schlosser carefully retraces our steps toward the current state of affairs by explaining the successive impact of the racist "Reefer Madness" era (directed at Mexican immigrants and Black jazz musicians); President Nixon's reign (Nixon unsurprisingly blamed marijuana law reform "on the Jews"); and on the Reagan-era appointment of Carlton Turner to the nation's first Drug Czar post. (For his part, the fanatical Turner linked marijuana use to the "present young-adult generation's involvement in anti-military, anti-nuclear power, anti-big business, anti-authority demonstrations.")

Then came the triple-whammy of the Crime Control Act of 1984, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, and the Anti-Drug Abuse Amendment Act of 1988. Mandatory minimum sentencing — rather than judicial discretion — became the operative concept, stripping power from judges and handing a veritable *carte blanche* to local, state, and federal prosecutors to determine the

**REEFER MADNESS**  
**Sex, Drugs, and Cheap Labor in the American Black Market.** What happens in the black market is worth examining because of the way fortunes are made there, lives are often ruined there, and the vicissitudes of the law can deem one man a gangster or a chief executive (or both). If the market does indeed embody the sum of all human wishes, then the secret ones are just as important as the ones that are openly displayed.  
**ERIC SCHLOSSER** author of *Fast Food Nation*

Continued on Page 14



## OFFICE Continued from Page 1

Estate Services, manages about three million square feet of the city's commercial space (if your head swims at the three-million figure, here's another way to think of it: that's enough room for about 7,500 studio apartments). Hoban was predictably skeptical. "Margins in income property ownership are so thin. If we take even three to five percent of our property off the market" — by donating the space for use as shelter — "it injures our ability to service the other tenants in a building." The local housing activist disputed that claim. "It's been done before. Shelters are usually only open to the homeless at night, long after the commercial tenants have gone home. They use the elevators, and in most cases the tenants are unaware of the shelter residents."

Bill Pollard, president of the Washington branch of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP-WA), a trade association of developers, raised other concerns. Speaking in his capacity as an industry professional — not as NAIOP's president — he said, "In order to convert empty commercial space into shelter space, I think a number of preconditions would need to exist. First, the building would have to be empty. Second, it couldn't have any possible chance of successful leasing; the owner would have to be planning to sit on it for a couple years. Another factor that might make it feasible is if the building were slated for demolition. And there's always the question of liability."

Such pessimism should come as no surprise from an industry that's struggling with a sluggish economy exacerbated by a glut of office space. Equity Office Properties (EOP), the nation's largest owner of office properties, saw revenues fall by 5 percent in the first quarter of 2003, and their net income fell by 28 percent (to \$157 million from \$217 million a year ago). According to the Dow Jones Newswire, "occupancy decline accounted for much of the company's weaker results." In response, EOP has been selling off assets and restructuring the company, a move that will involve laying off 15 percent of their workforce by year's end.

Politicians have a tendency to wait and see which way the political winds are blowing before taking a stand on controversial proposals, and City Councilmember Judy Nicastro is no exception. Nicastro, Chair of the City's Land Use Committee, failed to return calls. Jill Berkey, her legislative assistant on Land Use issues, seemed confused by my questions and said she "wasn't sure the City Council could help."

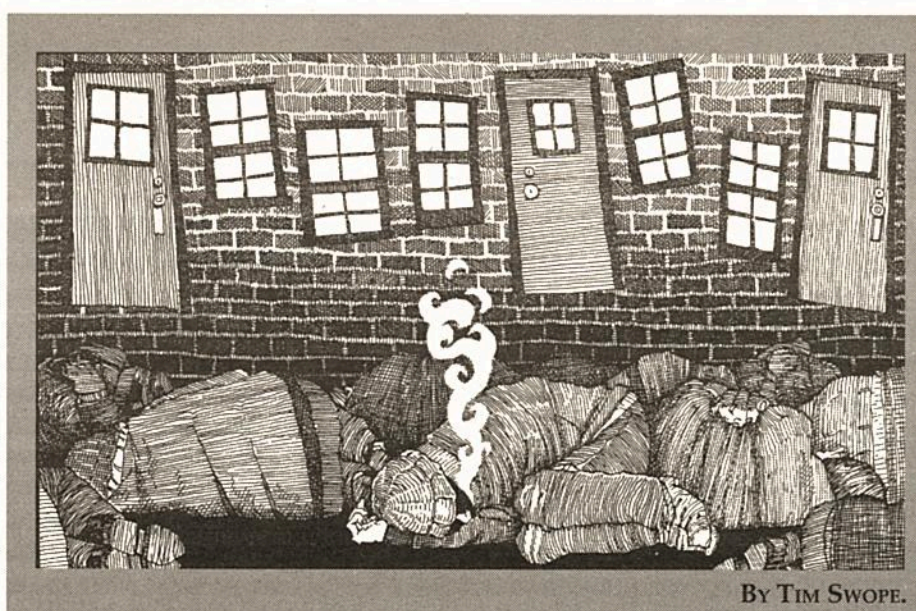
In the absence of a legislative initiative to convert office space to shelter, many options still exist. The city's Department of Design, Construction and Land Use (DCLU) is allowed significant discretion about what can be opened where, and under what conditions. In response to a 1998 query from the city's Human Services Department,

the DCLU listed some basic conditions that would be necessary before approving a temporary shelter space. These requirements included: two exits with exit lights; location at grade level; smoke detectors; fire extinguishers; separation from other tenants; someone who's paid to be awake during shelter hours; and rules prohibiting smoking, drug use, etc.

These relatively easy-to-meet conditions are good news for housing advocates looking to convert older commercial space. But what about a new building like the IDX Tower? Could the city require developers to provide a certain amount of their new floor space for emergency shelter?

Alan Justad of the DCLU acknowledged that downtown developers have been given incentives — such as the ability to exceed code limitations on height or bulk in a new building — in trade for the creation of such civic-minded infrastructure as childcare and low-income housing. The IDX Tower is a good example: its developers received concessions in exchange for providing 8,100 sq. ft. of childcare space. In fact, Seattle's Municipal Code Section 23.49.012 was written with exactly this sort of thing in mind. The code reads: "The City has determined that a major impact of [high-rise office] development is the increased need for low-income and low-moderate income housing downtown to serve workers in lower-paid jobs and their families attracted by the development." Emergency shelter would surely fall within the intent — if not the exact letter — of this law.

Justad was skeptical of such an approach. "Requiring set-asides for shelter space in new buildings would be a tough sell to developers as a land-use condition. I think you'd have better luck with existing space that's already been vacant awhile." Nonetheless, it's a new approach that probably deserves a closer look. Other incentives that could be offered to developers might include tax credits and utility subsidies. While Justad's never heard of a concerted effort to convert office space to shelter, he said that DCLU would prioritize such a permit if they knew the provider was



BY TIM SWOPE.

trying to lock down a space before wintertime.

But what do homeless people themselves think of this idea? Would they be willing to crash in the lofty reaches of Seattle's skyscrapers? *Real Change* vendor Lindell Pearson, currently homeless and staying in his van, thought that a shelter in a building like the IDX Tower would be preferable to his current situation. Our question got a homeless woman we talked with at Third Avenue and Yesler reminiscing about the days she used to work in a skyscraper at Union Square, where her boss "had a terrific view." She was afraid the landlords wouldn't let the homeless ride the elevators, but if that concern were met, she had no problem with the concept of high-rise shelters.

Standing on the 38th floor of the IDX Tower, it wasn't hard to imagine the space being used as shelter. The unoccupied floors are empty shells, containing little more than concrete slab floors, air ducts, and fire sprinklers. The larger floors, with about 25,000 square feet, each provide four men's and four women's restrooms. The smaller floor plates, near the top of the tower, are only about 12,000 square feet in size,

and offer only one bathroom per sex. These bathrooms contain toilets and sinks but no showers or baths. Nonetheless, staying here would clearly be an improvement over sleeping in an exposed doorway or under a highway overpass.

The owners, developers, and managers of Seattle's vacant commercial space are not heartless, uncaring people. They simply don't see the homeless problem as their responsibility. This is not some personal failing of theirs, but rather a symptom of our cultural myopia. On the one hand, we have homeless people in crisis — they're our brothers, our sisters, our neighbors, and our friends. On the other hand, we have more than five and a half million square feet of empty commercial space in Seattle, serving no purpose at all. With a little imagination and some political initiative, we could easily shelter every resident of this city. From five hundred feet up, anything looks possible. ■

Jess Grant is a freelance writer and performing songwriter ([www.jessgrant.com](http://www.jessgrant.com)) who lives in Ballard.

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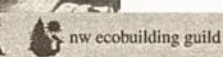
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# Book Reviews

## A Wizard's Guide to Fighting Terrorism

*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*  
By J. K. Rowling  
Scholastic (2003)  
870 pages, \$29.99

Review by Michele Marchand

Since George W. Bush is acting like an arrogant, angry adolescent these days ("Bring 'em on!" to Iraqi resistance; indicating that he "didn't want to meet with him anyway" when Nelson Mandela left South Africa to avoid a meeting) it's easy to see why *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* should be on the Presidential summer reading list. Plus, it's at Bush's reading level.

Although when I offered that opinion, my friend Jill said, "No, no, he obviously isn't appropriately able to synthesize information from a large report."

In the large report of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Harry himself has become an angry adolescent; he's witnessed the rise of Dark Lord Voldemort, and practically no one believes him. The Ministry of Magic is deep in denial, and sends a Ministry agent to Hogwarts to spy on Harry and Headmaster Dumbledore. Dumbledore has founded the Order of the Phoenix, a group of like-minded witches and wizards doing what they can to fight Voldemort's evil.

It's a fun and fascinating read, and contains basic lessons in how to deal with the rise of terror(ism) that run counter to the Bushies' approach. Here's what President Bush could learn if he read it:

### LESSON #1: Patriot Acts and Loyalty Tests Will Always Backfire

Rowling has created a wonderfully evil character in Dolores Umbridge, sent by the Ministry of Magic to spy on

Headmaster Dumbledore's Hogwarts activities and prevent a Ministry coup. With a "Hem-hem" here and a "Hem-hem" there, she interrupts normal activity at Hogwarts, and soon becomes the Grand Inquisitor of the school: opening mail, evaluating teachers, posting edicts demanding loyalty, and taking a special interest in torturing Harry.

Her edicts, known as Educational Decrees 24 through 30, backfire: soon three of the houses of Hogwarts are united in opposition to her; students form their own Defense Against Dark Arts Class. Civil disobedience occurs, in its own, magical way: the Weasley twins, who spend much of the book inventing joke candies, use their irreverent inventing skills to wreck havoc on the Umbridge reign of terror, and leave the school in a magical blaze of glory.

Umbridge is eventually done in by her own quest for power within the Ministry. At book's end she's catatonic in the school infirmary.

### LESSON #2: Suppression of the Press is Bad, and the Real Story will Get Out Anyway

The Ministry first suppresses Harry's story of the rise of Voldemort, and then use their long arm of influence to vilify and dismiss Harry and Dumbledore in the magical newspaper *The Daily Prophet*.

Hermione, Harry, and friends use an alternative publication, *The Quibbler*, to publish an interview with Harry. An

Umbridge edict banning the magazine virtually guarantees that every student in the school will read it. Soon, narrative inconsistencies in the Ministry version of events become transparent, and people begin to turn back to Harry and Dumbledore.

### LESSON #3: Don't Forget About Enemies Within

Dementors — wizard prison guards — appear early in the book and attempt to destroy Harry and his bullying cousin Dudley. They are ostensibly working for the Ministry, but their soul-sucking technique has always been decried by Dumbledore as too harsh. The dark arts they use, Dumbledore says, are easily turned to Voldemort's side. Their appearance in suburban Little Whinging shows they have turned traitorous, though the Ministry denies it. When 12 of the most-notorious Death Eaters (supporters of the Dark Lord) escape the wizard prison, with the help of the Dementors, it is clear that Dumbledore was right.

And, although Harry has fingered several wealthy patrons of the Ministry as Death Eaters, the Ministry denies it until those same Death-Eaters are caught in the act of attempting to steal a prophecy for Voldemort, during a wacky battle in Ministry Headquarters. Faced with this incontrovertible evidence, the shocked, ashen, Minister of Magic Fudge sees he's been wrong.

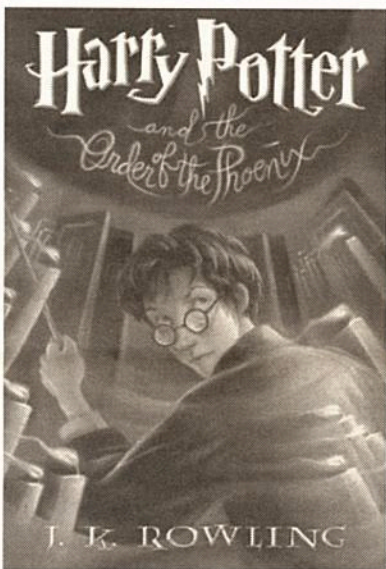
### LESSON #4: A Cross-Cultural Approach is Good, and International Unity is Necessary to Fight Terrorism

Dumbledore is, of course, the wise hero-teacher of these books, and his approach to dealing with the rise of terror has been, from the beginning, one of openness and unity. Last year he spearheaded efforts to bring students from other wizarding schools to Hogwarts for the Triwizard Cup, sparking cross-cultural unity. He also was open with the students about Voldemort's rise. This year, through various sympathetic emissaries, he begins reaching out a hand of friendship to goblins, giants, house-elves — species traditionally reviled by the Ministry.

Dumbledore's theory is that secrecy, division, and reviling differences between nations will allow Voldemort's evil to rise in the magical world. By the end of the book, the Ministry of Magic is in a shambles and Dumbledore is restored to his position at Hogwarts. We'll see if the Ministry heeds his wisdom in *Harry Potter #6*.

*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* has its shortcomings: narrative inconsistencies, unexplained and abrupt plot devices, stereotypical characterization (especially of girls and women), annoyingly repetitive dialogue descriptors (I swear if one more character said something "bracingly" I was going to scream.)

Even so, this book explores the territory of good children's literature in asking what it means to be brave in face of terror. It's interesting to me that Rowling's conclusions run counter to U.S. policy, post-September 11. But then again, didn't 90 percent of Brits oppose the invasion of Iraq? ■



### Under Economy Continued from Page 9

fate of drug offenders.

Schlosser finds particular fault with the selective enforcement of drug laws and mandatory minimum sentencing with regard to the children of the rich and famous. The sons of Secretary of State James Baker, Congressman Dan Burton (who introduced 1990 legislation calling for the death penalty for drug dealers) South Carolina Governor Richard W. Riley (later Clinton's Secretary of Education) and Congressman Randy Cunningham have all been arrested with small to large amounts of marijuana and/or cocaine in their possession. After parental intervention, all received remarkable leniency ranging from small fines to short stints in minimum-security prisons.

Decriminalization, says Schlosser, is the obvious interim solution. If the patterns of many other Western na-

tions are any indication, drug use would likely decline, not increase, and tightly-stretched budgets would be flush with money saved from policing, prosecution, and incarceration. Funding for drug treatment is money better spent, adds Schlosser, and marijuana should indeed be kept away from children and strongly discouraged among teenagers.

"A society that can punish a marijuana offender more severely than a murderer is caught in the grip of a deep psychosis," as Schlosser concludes. "The government's behavior will not withstand public scrutiny for long. This war is over, if you want it." ■

*Silja J.A. Talvi is a Seattle-based journalist, Real Change advisory board member and staff writer for ColorsNW Magazine. She can be reached at siljat@colorsnw.com.*

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# Book Reviews

## Beyond comprehension

*Fateless*

By Imré Kertész

Hydra Publishing, 1996

191 pages, \$26

Review by Joe Martin

In 1944, the last bastion of European Jewry was comprised of 800,000 Hungarian Jews; one quarter of them lived in Budapest alone. Although the nation was allied with the Axis powers, a combination of political and historical factors had provided many of Hungary's Jews a tenuous safeguard from the full horror of the Nazi death machine. Jewish refugees who had fled to Hungary had brought frightening tales of atrocities. But they were often not quite believed. And if these frightful stories were indeed true, surely such things would not happen in Hungary.

But furious change did come crashing, swift and sudden. Impatient with Hungary's apparent procrastination in rigorously implementing the Final Solution, Adolph Hitler, in February of 1944, laid plans for the occupation of Hungary: "Operation Margharthe." On March 19, the German army tore into Hungary, followed by a large SS and police force which included a "Special Task Force" led by Adolph Eichmann.

The Nazis would outdo themselves in their zealous campaign of terror and extermination against the Hungarian Jews. Even when the war was clearly in its final phase, when it was obvious that Germany was doomed, Hitler's reeling government actually diverted considerable energy and resources to their fanatical genocidal program. Yet in spite of the mad efficiency of industrialized murder, some victims survived. A few would search for the words to tell of the unspeakable.

Imré Kertész, winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize for literature, is one such survivor. His first novel, *Fateless*, details the experience of George Kovács, a teenager whose young life is quickly and grotesquely transformed by forces of war, racial bigotry, and totalitarianism of which he has little comprehension. One assumes his Jewishness, but he is not by disposition religious; he does not speak Yiddish; he does not identify himself specifically as a Jew. But to the voracious Nazi colossus, he is a Jew, and that imposed designation

sets his course.

*Fateless* is a brief novel. Told in the young protagonist's plain, quotidian language, the reader encounters George and his father, a modest businessman, and stepmother in the early stages of crisis, the full and deadly dimensions of which are still unclear to them. Already, Jews are wearing the yellow star. George's father is soon to leave for a work camp — a destination for some of the country's Jews before the Nazi invasion. While the atmosphere surrounding his father's departure is replete with anxiety and foreboding, some preparations might be those of any itinerant worker about to take a faraway job. A knapsack and other articles deemed necessary for the journey are purchased. It is determined that in the father's absence, the family's valuables should be kept safe by a

former employee — a non-Jew. One could only hope that the man would be trustworthy. There is even a family gathering in George's home on the eve of his father's departure, with relatives and neighbors stopping by to provide encouragement. Eventually, an uncle invokes silence and prays to God that "soon we can all again be able to gather together at the family table in peace, love, and good

health." The chapter concludes with George in his father's arms and with a torrent of pent-up tears streaming down the teen's face. On the morrow, his father would be gone forever.

Soon George himself is assigned to work at an oil refinery in a place called Csepel. This is something of note, since most persons wearing yellow stars were restricted from leaving the city. One morning on the way to work, his bus is detained. All Jews are ordered off. The order is repeatedly enforced, stopping and selectively emptying all buses on route to the refinery. This operation is conducted by one lone policeman who soon has a large contingent of detainees on his hands. The policeman marches his charges to an empty customshouse where they await further instructions.

George and his teenage companions, who cluster together, appear to be not too anxious or afraid; they're a bit bemused even by what has transpired. George admits that finding himself in the middle of such an absurd

situation, he had "an urge to laugh." All would soon learn that they had completed the first step on a journey to Auschwitz.

In his recent sweeping study of the Third Reich, historian Michael Burleigh writes, "Of the 438,000 Hungarian Jews sent to Auschwitz, about 10 percent were selected for extermination through labor, the rest being reduced to smoke and fine dust."

George describes the terrible conditions of the railroad cars. The thirst especially: "On the train the thing we missed most was water." And relief from the thirst, stench, distress, fear, and confusion of the rail cars comes only after arrival at Auschwitz, on the opening of the doors. A farrago of noise and foreign tongues greets the exhausted passengers.

Still, George is able to consider this a grand adventure. He is struck by all the "convicts" in prison garb roaming and working about. Having passed the brief inspection that separates him from those about to suffer a swift death by gassing, the unsuspecting youth will be promptly and efficiently transmogrified into a convict, one more innocent and numbered prisoner.

Shortly, George is transported again. This time to Buchenwald, and then from there to a smaller satellite within the crazed universe of the *Lagers* (camps). This place, called Zeitz, contains about 2,000 prisoners. At Zeitz, the persistent hunger, degradation, exhaustion, and rampant illness that suffused the Lager system finally overwhelm the teen. Kertész's depiction of the resulting apathy and psychological detachment, his limning of the lethargy and the mortal resignation which overtakes one so robbed of nutrition, hygiene, and dignity is profound in its plain telling. Left alone, the numbed and emaciated youth would have sunk irretrievably into his diminished frame and perished.

But his loyal friend and fellow prisoner, Bandi Citrom, will not allow him to slip away. It is only this friend's intervention that results in George's survival. For by the good fortune put in motion by Bandi, George is transported back to Buchenwald where he is inexplicably, compassionately provided just enough medical attention to outlast the war. The author does not reveal Bandi's fate.

Hardly is George beyond the gates of Buchenwald when he must grapple

with the meaning and even the metaphysics of his horrific ordeal. Feverish questions are asked by those who were not in the *Lagers*: Were there really ovens? Was the wholesale death and extermination really true? A survivor, George surely must have some answers and insights to offer. But in discussions with strangers, with a sympathetic journalist, with old neighbors, the teen's attempts to explain the collective psychosis and treacherous time warp of the concentration camp world seem inadequate, inconclusive; they fall exasperatingly short. It's a lack due not only to his youth, but perhaps also to the inability of language itself to relate the full and ferocious dimensions of studiously engineered mass murder.

In one meditation on the Holocaust, the respected literary critic George Steiner, himself a Jew though not a survivor of the *Lagers*, wrote: "Are there, as science fiction and Gnostic speculation imply, different

species of time in the same world, 'good times' and enveloping folds of inhumane time, in which men fall into the slow hands of living damnation? If we reject some such module, it becomes exceedingly difficult to grasp the continuity between normal existence and the hour at which hell starts, on the city square when the Germans begin the deportations, or in the office of the Judenrat or wherever, an hour marking men, women, children off any precedent of life, from any voice 'outside,' in that other time of sleep and food and humane speech."

On first reading of Imré Kertész and his Nobel Prize, I learned that he is a friendly man who laughs, drinks, and enjoys the company of friends. He planned to throw a big party with some of his prize money. A man who still laughs and who can honestly be said to love others after his immersion in the necropolis of the *Lagers* is himself a testament to the goodness and humor that resides in the collective human spirit alongside the tragic and fearsome human potential for evil.

At this time, when mass murder and genocide still burst forth into the midst of our own twisted and bloody contemporary history, *Fateless* is a novel that is at once a fictional chronicle of the past, and a warning for our uncertain future. By now, Kertész has surely had his party. Never was a celebration more deserved. ■

**Yet in spite of the mad efficiency of industrialized murder, some victims survived. A few would search for the words to tell of the unspeakable.**





# Lessons of History

*War Against the Weak: Eugenics and America's Campaign to Create a Master Race*

by Edwin Black

Four Walls Eight Windows, New York City

To be published in September; \$26; 592 pages

Review by Anitra Freeman

In the development of personal conscience, we constantly re-evaluate our past. We examine the consequences of what we did, to determine what we will do. Edwin Black is an historian whose studies have focused on the Holocaust, perhaps because he is the son of Polish Holocaust survivors. Like all historians of the Holocaust, he has made it his work to remind us of things about ourselves we would rather not recall — and must never forget.

Are we not done researching the Holocaust yet? Until the day every one of us can say we see no ethnocentric injustice in our world, I do not believe we have finished re-searching the record of the greatest monument to ethnocentric evil in our history.

One man did not create the Holocaust; nor did one nation. It took billions, around the world, over many decades, to create the conditions for that great tragedy. It will take billions, around the world, many more decades of doing small goods and avoiding small evils, before we have a world where such things never happen again.

In his previous book, *IBM and the Holocaust*, Black documented the human tendency to prioritize "practicality," expediency, and self-interest over humanitarian principles. IBM itself would like to rewrite history and claim that it lost all control over its branch in Germany, which supplied and aided the identification, enumeration, collection, and extinction of Jews and other "undesirables" by Nazi officials, all on its own authority. Going direct to source documents, Black demonstrates that this is not the truth. CEO Thomas Watson directly supported the business of IBM in 20 countries, including Germany, even while reports of the Holocaust were being written up in U.S. newspapers.

Both legal authorities and historians have pointed out, however, that context is important, and there is a difference between moral responsibility and legal responsibility. Watson cannot be accused of deliberately conspiring with

IBM to destroy Jews. He and many others are responsible for narrowing their focus to what they considered "their business" and ignoring the consequences of not interfering in what they considered "not their business."

To this, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

In *The Transfer Agreement*, Black documented the support that Henry Ford gave the Nazi regime. He also recorded a heart-wrenching question for many at the time: a deal between Zionists and Nazis, in the early years of the war, to transfer a large number of Jews (and their financial assets) to Palestine, in return for an end to a world-wide propaganda campaign against Fascism. The most painful specter that Black raised in this book, however, was the intra-ethnic class divisions that made it possible for the more prosperous Jews to ignore the dilemmas of the less prosperous.

In *War Against the Weak*, Black documents the history of the eugenics movement — the attempt to eliminate the "unfit" among humanity and breed "a better race," a pseudo-scientific rationalization of racism that began in England and was nurtured to full growth in America before it ever migrated to Germany. Even its full flowering in Nazi Germany was financed and fondly praised by American interests.

Eugenics was driven by class divisions and also by a shallow interpretation of "practicality" and self-interest that justified any degree of harm to others as "for the ultimate good" of "those who count."

Disdaining "different" and "lesser" people (and easily identifying the first quality with the other) and discriminating against them is a basic natural behavior in humans. It is something that we all have to struggle against, that humans have been struggling against since becoming self-aware and may well be struggling against as long as we have flesh.

Historically, most people admire social groups that "take care of their own" — that help the weak, injured, ill, elderly, or very young. People are held up as most admirable who care for the stranger or the outcast. We sense a moral obligation to help one another,

as strong as an obligation not to do harm.

In Western social development, however, these moral obligations became identified with religion. It was the church's responsibility to help the poor. The basis of ethics was faith, not reason, and so being good was a desirable aspiration, not a practical necessity. Practicality more often necessitated being selfish, or even doing things regarded as ethically wrong. This split between ethics and practicality made it possible for us to "be good on Sunday": donate to church-based charity and pay lip service to human benevolence while practicing cutthroat competition and self-centeredness in business and government.

Ethics has nothing to do with religion; ethics is a human matter, pertaining to human interaction with the world and each other. "Practical behavior" is ethical behavior; good government and good business and even good science is *ethical* government and business and

science, and there are ethics that transcend particular political or religious ideologies. But these are relatively new, post-postmodern ideas. Our attitude toward social obligations to "the poor" is only one of the things being affected by this shift on consideration of ethics.

Even as we find a growing number of people recognizing a moral obligation to care for each other, we also find a rising opinion in modern politics, again, that there are "unfit" people dragging down "the national character." The history of pseudo-science — and our own personal memories, if we're passably honest — demonstrates to us how easily we find "scientific" rationalizations for what we want to do. It is especially appealing to find "practical" justifications for something that might otherwise look cruel or inhumane.

I think it is a good time to re-search the Holocaust. It is a good time to remind ourselves what happens whenever "practicality" is placed above humanity. ■

**Until the day every one of us can say we see no ethnocentric injustice in our world, I do not believe we have finished researching the record of the greatest monument to ethnocentric evil in our history.**

## Street Talk

Interviews and photographs by Polly Keary

Pedestrians on University Way, also known as the "Ave," responded to this question: In light of the ongoing casualties in Iraq, what do you think the United States should do?

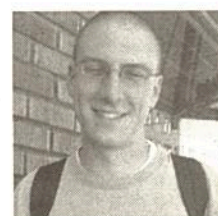


"We shouldn't be in there in the first place; it's the wrong war at the wrong time. The U.S. depends on Iraq for oil and this will cut off our oil supplies. We should do more to keep good relationships."

— Michael O'Conner, 50

"I'm not really in favor of the war, but my brother is there, so I can't really be against it. I can't support our troops but can't not either. What my wish is, is that Bush's popularity would come back to check on this matter."

— Rob Tyler, 38, scientist



"I don't think we should be there in the first place. I think we need to fulfill our mission to establish a better country. Our obvious priority is oil and getting leadership we want in there. There are movements to get elections and get people elected but we're opposed to them. Nothing good is going to happen unless we work to bring electricity back and fix the roads and the police and support an effective democracy."

— Jarod Bishop, 23, student

"I think we should be kicking ass and taking names. I just think that the rules of engagement should be thrown out the window. Anyone with weapons who is hostile should get taken out."

— Neil Stamp, 29, carpenter



Continued on Next Page



## STREET TALK Continued from Previous Page



"I don't really know. I think we should work on restitution instead of violence. We should be rebuilding instead of using the military, and we shouldn't be handing out contracts to corporate companies with way too much stake in what goes on in the world."

— Bryan Wilson, 21, student

"I don't think the situation right now is very good. I don't think we should have gone in there in the first place. So many people died. It seems like the U.S. is trying to control another country when it already controls so many. It's good to try to help other countries but not in that way. I think we should do more humanitarian work than killing and fighting. We should bring food first, then help rebuild."

— Laura Sand, 31, teacher



"I think it was a mistake in the first place. Definitely I think it was a mistake — I don't want to say a lie — but it was misleading to say that the main attempt was to free the Iraqi people and that we were trying to set up a democracy. I don't know what they are doing there but I don't think a democracy is going to work because there is a Shiite majority in Iraq and [the United States] will never let a Shiite government happen."

I think that's something a lot of Americans didn't understand who don't know about the region. The intentions were wrong from the beginning."

— John [last name withheld], 23, student, Middle East Studies

"What [the U.S.] has done so far hasn't been very successful; the whole weapons of mass destruction theory didn't pan out. They need to realize that they do need help from outside. It's unrealistic to say that forces should be withdrawn, now that people's lives have been affected, but we should be focused toward rebuilding and setting up a new government that could be independent on its own. Although I don't think that's very realistic given their economic situation."

— Natasha Merchan, 20, student, political science and Near East Islamic studies



**Wednesday, July 2, 3:53 p.m., 100 block Pike St.** An officer recognized the suspect, a transient black male aged 40, who is on active Department of Corrections (DOC) supervision. He was observed walking with a known drug dealer. Officers contacted the DOC, and were advised to search the suspect. He was contacted and searched, and was found to have a crack pipe on his person. He was advised he had violated his DOC conditions, and was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

**Wednesday, July 2, 11:52 p.m. 21st Avenue and E. Madison St.** An officer working uniformed patrol saw the suspect, a transient black male aged 42, standing on the corner of 21st and E. Madison. The officer was familiar with the suspect from previous contacts, and ran his name through the police computer. He discovered suspect was a wanted person with a warrant for his arrest. The officer detained the suspect, verified the warrant, and arrested and booked the suspect into King County Jail.

**Thursday, July 3, S. Dearborn St., vacant lot.** Officers had been informed that a female transient was missing and thought to be dead somewhere in the vacant lot. As they were searching the brushy area, they came across a man sleeping. He was told he was trespassing on private Department of Transportation property. A computer check showed he had been trespassed from the property previously, and he was asked to leave. He left the area. Officers found no sign

of a body, and so left and drove around the block. They observed the suspect heading back onto the vacant lot, and followed him. He was coming down the hill from "the jungle," and stated he had to go back to get his knife. The officers stated he could not go back, and was under arrest for criminal trespass. The man, a transient Asian male aged 35, was taken into custody. A knife was found in his backpack. He was again trespassed from the property, arrested, and booked into King County Jail for criminal trespass and unlawful use of weapons.

**Thursday, July 3, 3:40 p.m. Western Avenue; Victor Steinbrueck Park.** Officers observed the suspect, a transient Native American male, standing in the middle of the park. He had been arrested on two previous occasions for trespassing in the park, and had had several Parks Exclusion notices written for him. He was arrested and booked into King County Jail.

**Saturday, July 5, 7:47 a.m. Summit Ave. Methadone Clinic.** The victims were homeless people who frequent this address for medical reasons. They know the suspect from being on the street — he is also homeless. Victims, a white female aged 23 and a white male aged 40, were in the parking lot of the clinic, and engaged the suspect in conversation. The victims asked his opinion on a subject they were discussing. The suspect pulled out a can and sprayed the male victim in the face and eyes. He then walked away. The female called 911, and officers responded but were unable to locate the suspect. Medics treated the man at the scene — the spray was found to be pepper spray. ■

*Streetwatch is compiled from Seattle Police Department incident reports by Emma Quinn.*

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# I Know You Know Me

By Anne Townsend

The mission statement of the *Real Change*-sponsored play *I Know You Know Me*, was written by the cast more than a month ago. It declares that "[it] will take you along for a day in the lives of a few homeless people. Compiled from the works of StreetWrites [the peer-support group for homeless and very-low income writers], the play muses on several issues, but focuses finally on finding space within oneself to connect with others."

But coming to this mission statement was no easy task. The production suffered the loss of its compiler/director, who was unable to transition from creative visionary to actual director. When the cast learned that the director would no longer be working with them, the cast of nine quickly dwindled to five. Daniel Arreola, Amy Blevins, Anitra Freeman, Sarah Hartley, and Per Jansen — the group of five who embraced the project — decided to self-direct the play, with no notes or instructions from the original director. "It was all in his head," Per Jansen said, "but the script itself is inspiration enough to make the production happen." Writing the mission statement was just one step in bringing this play to fruition.

Playing people who range from a youthful male grappling with reality, to a queer scholar of philosophy who writes poetry and works seasonal carpentry jobs, the cast has had to do a lot of work to truly get into character. The group has been reading books on homelessness — first-person accounts of the experience.

Anitra Freeman, the only cast member who has experienced homelessness (and one of the writers whose work is compiled in the script), took the group for a night on the town — homeless style. On Friday, July 11, they met in the University District to eat at the Friday Feast. With less than five dollars each in their pockets, they then headed to the current site of Tent City, and the director gave them a tour. Amy Blevins and Sarah Hartley both loved the community of Tent City, and said, "Everybody seemed to be looking out for each other."

After missing the last bus from the Tent City area back downtown, the group hiked 30 blocks to the next bus stop. Once downtown, and pretty much out of money, the group meandered around town, moving through the waterfront and into Pioneer Square. Around 11:30 p.m., the group sat and rested in Occidental Park. "We

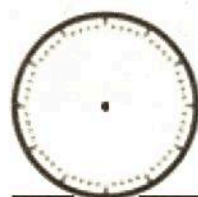
noticed that all the people who usually sleep on the streets around [Pioneer Square] were not on the streets," said Freeman. "This lead me to believe that they knew Friday Night was not a good night to be sleeping on these streets. So we went back down to the waterfront." This observation foreshadowed the tragic events to come early the next morning.

They decided to park it for the night at a place near the waterfront they passed on their way to Pioneer Square, only to find themselves awake during the early morning hours — in what Freeman called "Crack Central." Blevins remembers waking to the stiletto heel of a prostitute in her face — a prostitute who, she claims, probably didn't even know she was there. The entire group witnessed drug deals that night. "They looked around to see if anyone was watching before doing the deal," Jansen said, "and even though I was [watching], they didn't see me — I was invisible." It didn't matter if the cast watched, because they appeared as homeless as the next guy or gal sleeping on the streets that night — to the rest of the world, they simply weren't there.

The idea of invisibility strongly affected the group, not only in their pursuit to understand the characters they play in the show, but also politically. Jansen claims this feeling as one that authenticated the homeless experience. He was close to the ground. He became part of the ground and as invisible as the cracks on the sidewalks to those who walked past him that night. Quite possibly as invisible as homeless woman Sandra Lee Smiscon, who was shot around 3:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 12 — the cast heard the sound of the bullet that killed her as they lay awake on the street. The shots rang out at Fourth and Yesler, just a few blocks away from where the group was sleeping for the night.

These few yet real tastes of life on the street have only solidified the casts' reasons for bringing this script to the stage. I asked them why they decided to audition for the play, and amidst many answers, one commonality emerged: each member of the cast saw this script as a chance to weave theatre and social change together. Arreola said, "It's political. It deserves to be seen and heard." ■

***I Know You Know Me***  
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## Timeless Astrology

by R.W. Reid

August 2003

One Christmas, longing for the comfort of a wood fire, I purchased a video called *Cracking Fireplace*. Every night, 45 minutes of snap crackle and pop bombarded my soul with illusionary warmth. I constructed a cloth mantle for the TV with photo booth snaps and baby socks stitched on. I was hooked. Then one evening at friend's house we built a real fire. Our hands got sticky with sap. We argued about twig placement, log size, and draft strategies. Eventually, peaceful and warm, we dozed as the embers settled. At home, my video fire seemed tawdry. Moral: Even with pine pitch in your hair and soot to the eyebrows, making genuine light and warmth is worth it. No matter how many of your marshmallows catch on fire during the process.



**Aries:** Your fiery, driven nature at home in the cherry-bomb-under-the-garbage-can approach to life is ready to be transformed. First to firecrackers and then eventually to the ignominiously diminutive qualities of a lone sparkler sputtering its last glimmer into the dusk. Enjoy your down time — the bang will return.



**Taurus:** The trouble with sustaining the power of centripetal force is it can become a real strain. Face it, at the moment you are like a magnet in the stomach of an unattractive cow. Surrounded by the nuts and bolts eaten by mistake with pasture hay, you are not outwardly beautiful — but you still provide an attractive function that is necessary for life.



**Gemini:** Finally, the details have been finalized and you have reduced the things you need to make you happy into one necessary event. You have written your dream in your diary but reality doesn't like to be prompted. It would be better to leave the book on your front porch and be surprised and delighted to find out who shows up to write in it.



**Cancer:** To be moon-ruled is like owning a cocktail shaker that makes only one kind of drink every three days. Martinis, then manhattans, and just when you are desperate for an ice-cold beer it's old-fashions with pink umbrellas for days on end. What's the message? Develop a taste for the drink that is sitting before you, and all the other food groups will follow.



**Leo:** You have the opportunity this month to be the spark that floats from the volcano's mouth over the trees. Finally, after a near-quenching in the rainstorm of uncertainty, and a possible snuffing out in the doorjamb of distention, you come to rest in the perfect combustible — the dry and discarded husks of all your past resentments.



**Virgo:** This month starts with a startling new vision that disrupts your sense of order and deco-

rum. Soon you begin to see a different configuration through the kaleidoscope of duty and the slow turning reveals a new structure built entirely of the light and color assembled from your past experiences of authoritative love.



**Libra:** Being the Goddess who weighs hearts against feathers at the gate of the underworld is swell. In reality, hearts can get messy and plucking feathers is rewarding only if you enjoy duck beaks clinging to your nose. Remember playing tag? Ollie ollie all set free! Why not keep your scale for weighing that calm peaceful feeling that comes from letting it all go?



**Scorpio:** Your search for missing information is coming to an end. Just because something is absent doesn't mean that it is lost. The head side of a penny does not doubt the tail side's existence through lack of vision. Your emotional coin collection is complete with its polarity in mint condition, whether you can see both sides simultaneously or not.



**Sagittarius:** It has been a long courtship. Whether with a job, person, or place, you've tried your best to realize a responsible life. If you are not content by the end of the month, consider repositioning your heart from your sleeve to your chest. There it can resume pumping blood to your brain, which is running on empty and stalling your ability to see where your true interests lie.



**Capricorn:** Death, or the ending of things, has been lingering in your vicinity. You feel topsy-turvy. Walking on the ceiling for a while might let you discover that having your feet on the ground is not necessary at this time. Your job is to show others that switching your gravitational source to up instead of down will do wonders to renew hope for you and all those you love.



**Aquarius:** Your sleek sailboat-like nature has been modified to the slow regal splendor of the Queen Mary out on a slow spree in a fog bank. Enjoy the ride, and watch for breaks in the mist to glimpse new possibilities and potentials that can appear during this time of drifting and dreaming in an uncertain but pleasant haze.



**Pisces:** Puddles grow frogs. They reflect the moon and stars and beckon to the boots of children. They watch over lonely robins as they drink. They form in the low spots of life but don't seem to be bothered by their inferior status. They catch the wet light that runs downward and offer all that they have to the life that wanders by. You are this puddle both the robin drinking and the one being drunk. You have it all. ■

©RW Reid 2003. Got a question for *Timeless Astrology*? Send it to [editor@realchangenews.org](mailto:editor@realchangenews.org), with "Astrology" in the subject line.



# Mid-Summer

# Notables

## Thursday 7/24

Capitol Hill/Montlake Neighbors for Peace meeting with special guest, King County Councilmember Larry Gossett. Mr. Gossett will talk about **community organizing**, lobbying our local government, and opposing the erosion of **civil liberties**. 7 - 8:30 p.m., at Parish Center of St. Joseph's Church at 18th Ave. E. and E. Aloha, Seattle. Info [warrennorthrup@earthlink.net](mailto:warrennorthrup@earthlink.net) or for info on Larry Gossett see <http://www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/members/d10/index.htm>.

Rainier Valley Youth SummerSTAGE presents **The Tempest**, by William Shakespeare. Through August 2, all shows at 7:30 p.m. Rainier Valley Cultural Center, 3515 S. Alaska, \$3 - \$5. Tickets available at the door; call 206-725-7169 for more information.

## Friday 7/25

Panel discussion with public comment on **police brutality**, sponsored by the Black Law Students Association of Seattle University and others. 6:30 - 9:45 p.m., at Pigott Auditorium, Seattle University, 900 Broadway, Seattle. Info 206-264-5527 or [oct22seattle@hotmail.com](mailto:oct22seattle@hotmail.com).

## Sunday 7/27

Book discussion with community organizer Helen Helfer, speaking on her book **Footsteps on the Land: American Stories About Race**. Her book is based on accounts from 52 people of a variety of ages, racial/ethnic groups, and locales on experiences of race in the United States. 3 p.m., at Elliott Bay Book Company, S. Main and 1st S., Seattle. Info 206-624-6600 or <http://www.elliottbaybook.com>.

## Monday 7/28

Home Alive presents a **Boundary Setting Workshop**. Participants will explore boundaries and the tools we use to set and maintain healthy boundaries with

the people in our lives. 6 - 9 p.m., at 1400 18th, Seattle. \$0 - 50 sliding scale, to register for classes 206-720-0606 ext. 2 or <http://www.homealive.org>.

## Wednesday 7/30

Capitol Hill/Montlake Neighbors for Peace presents a community forum "From News to Entertainment: **Television Coverage of 9/11 and the War in Iraq**." UW Linguist Sandra Silberstein will discuss America's renderings of the terrorist attacks in presidential speeches, media texts, and eyewitness accounts. Her talk will be illustrated by videotapes of TV network broadcasts. 7 p.m., at Parish Center of St. Joseph's Church at 18th Ave. E. and E. Aloha, Seattle. Info [warrennorthrup@earthlink.net](mailto:warrennorthrup@earthlink.net).

Peace Activists call for a **nuclear free Port of Seattle**. Local activists will stage a water-based nonviolent protest against the glorification of weapons of war at the Seattle Seafair festival. Peace activists will meet the U.S. Navy fleet in Puget Sound and enter Elliott Bay with the fleet. Meet in downtown Seattle near Elliott Bay. Info Glen Milner 206-365-7865 or [info@gzcenter.org](mailto:info@gzcenter.org).

## Friday 8/1

Washington Citizens for Proportional Representation joins with "Friday Night at the Meaningful Movies" to present a film, a forum, and an ice cream social. The topic will be "Can proportional

representation save our democracy? — grassroots election reform for Seattle and beyond." 7 - 9:30 p.m., at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl., north of 50th. Info [wfnfp@comcast.net](mailto:wfnfp@comcast.net).

The Seattle Young People's Project (SYPP) is having its three day 7th Annual Beyond Survival **Young Women's Conference**, "Dig Deep When Your Well Runs Dry; Young Women Discovering Ourselves." The conference will create an empowering environment where they can learn more about themselves. Supported by a City of Seattle Hope for Youth Grant. Free with optional pay-if-you-can donation. Aug. 1 - 3, at Lake Retreat, Kent, WA. Transportation provided by SYPP, 2820 E. Cherry, Seattle. Register as soon as possible, info 206-860-9606 ext. 4 or [SYPPYWC\\_2003@hotmail.com](mailto:SYPPYWC_2003@hotmail.com).

## Saturday 8/2

Dave Lippman, veteran satirical songster, plays a benefit for the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) to **end the occupation of Palestine**. There will be high-end pop parodies and some very wise cracks from the world's only known singing CIA agent, George Shrub, in this counter-intelligence cabaret. Admission \$8/sliding scale, no one turned away. 7:30 p.m., at Ethnic Cultural Center, 3931 Brooklyn NE, Seattle. Info 206-285-2154 or <http://www.davelippman.com>.

## Sunday 8/3

TV Night at the Independent Media Center, "Don't Kill Your Television," featuring the best in artist and **activist television programming** found on Seattle Community Access Network (SCAN) and other "good TV" sources. Donations to

benefit the IMC are welcome. 7 - 9 p.m., at IMC, 1415 3rd Ave., between Pike and Union, Seattle. Info Susan 206-709-0558.

## Wednesday 8/6

**Jobs With Justice** Seattle Organizing Committee meeting, this and subsequent 1st Wednesdays. 5:30 p.m., at Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave., Seattle. Info 206-441-4969.

**From Hiroshima to Hope 2003**, a commemoration, with guest speakers, music, and a lantern floating ceremony. 6:30 p.m. to dark, at Greenlake, just south of the Bathhouse Theatre on the northwest side of the lake. Info Nancy Dickerman and Martin Fleck, Physicians for Social Responsibility 206-547-2630 or <http://www.wingluke.org/publicevents.html>.

## Friday, 8/8

**Bend It Extravaganza** is a queer youth arts festival. Friday night drag show, fashion show, and bands at SCCC. Saturday and Sunday workshops at SASG (303 17th Ave E.) and other venues from 12 - 5 p.m., films at the Little Theatre from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday evening spoken word (venue TBA), and Sunday evening films at On the Boards Friday through Sunday, contact 206-860-9606, [queeryouthrights@yahoo.com](mailto:queeryouthrights@yahoo.com), [www.queeryouthrights.org](http://www.queeryouthrights.org).

## Ongoing

**Books To Prisoners** needs your help! We are an all-volunteer group that sends free books to prisoners across the nation. If you would like to volunteer with us, or would like to find out how to help with book donations or gifts of cash, please contact us at 206-442-2013. ■

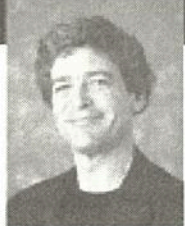
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**MICROSOFT OFFICE:**  
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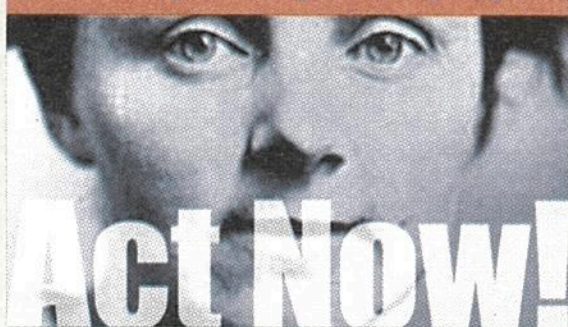
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citizens participation project



## Make a space for homeless people

**Issue:** Beginning this summer there will be a critical decline in hygiene and day services in downtown Seattle, primarily in Pioneer Square. Hundreds more people will have no access to toilets, showers, or a place to rest.

**Background:** In June 2003, the Downtown Emergency Services Center began rehabbing the Morrison Building on Third Avenue. This displaces approximately 150 people per day, people who normally utilize their day and hygiene services.

The Compass Center building at 77 South Washington is scheduled for repairs and renovations in January 2004. Currently, 150 to 250 people per day access their day and hygiene services. The building will be completely closed during the construction due to the damage sustained during the Nisqually earthquake.

Pioneer Square cannot meet the needs of 300 to 400 people per day without an alternative social service program being established in downtown.

**Proposed solution: Utilize the Public Safety Building to provide these services temporarily**

The city owned Public Safety Building (PSB) is not scheduled to be demolished for another year. Most of the occupants have already been relocated, leaving several large unused spaces in the building. The city has already arranged to move the "Muni" emergency shelter into the PSB during the Municipal Building construction. The PSB can be easily converted into a suitable space for providing day and hygiene services to people who are homeless. Preliminary plans have been drawn up and staff from other programs can be shifted to the new location.

Temporarily utilizing the Public Safety Building to provide services to people who are homeless is in the best interest of Seattle. Both the Mayor and the City Council have demonstrated an understanding of the need for hygiene and day center services by allocating \$800,000 in one-time construction funding during the last budget cycle. By January 2004 there will be 300 to 400 people per day in downtown who will need a safe and sanitary place to take care of their hygiene needs. Converting the PSB would protect the business interests of the downtown core, mitigate any potential impact on the library's scheduled re-opening, and help people meet their basic needs with dignity.

**Action:** Contact Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels with the following message: Please temporarily relocate hygiene services to the Public Safety Building during the Compass Center's scheduled renovation. Finding a temporary alternative hygiene site would protect the business interests of the downtown core, mitigate any potential impact on the library's scheduled reopening, and help people meet their basic needs with dignity. Hygiene services are already in short supply. Please don't let this problem get worse.

Contact Mayor Greg Nickels by email:  
[greg.nickels@seattle.gov](mailto:greg.nickels@seattle.gov) or go to [www.seattle.gov/mayor/contact.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/contact.htm) and use the web form.  
Or by phone: 206-684-4000.

For more information, contact Dan Owcarz, co-chair of the Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless at 206-283-6070 ext 304 or email [skcch@homelessinfo.org](mailto:skcch@homelessinfo.org). ■

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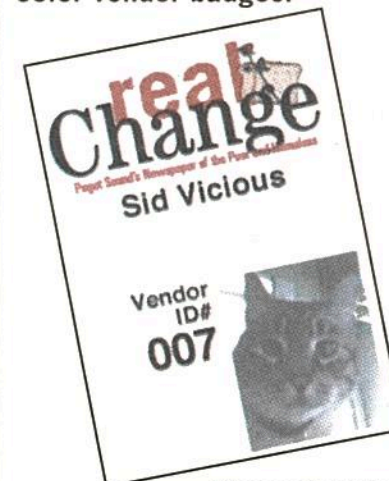
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# Mockingbird Times



Building a world class foster care system while serving our neighborhood youth



AUGUST 2003

Foster Care and Homeless Youth Speak out Across the Nation

VOLUME III, ISSUE 8

VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.MOCKINGBIRDSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.MOCKINGBIRDSOCIETY.ORG)

## Helping Addicts Recover by Reducing Harm

COURTNEY KONIETZKO



"MOST OF US ARE AS EAGER TO CHANGE AS WE ARE TO BE BORN, AND GO THROUGH CHANGES IN A SIMILAR STATE OF SHOCK."

— JAMES BALDWIN

**PEOPLE EVERYWHERE USE DRUGS.** Addiction does not discriminate by age, race, where you live, or how much money you have. Harm reduction is being used all over different parts of the world by recognizing that drugs are part of society and helping addicts learn to use in ways that are safer and reduce harm towards themselves and others.

There are two models for treating addiction. The Abstinence Model and the Harm Reduction Model. The Harm Reduction Model focuses on meeting people where they're at and doing everything that is possible to decrease risks in the addicted person's life without expecting drug use to immediately stop. Expecting complete abstinence from someone who is using seems impossible to me because relapse is part of the process of becoming clean. In the Harm Reduction Model, complete abstinence is the final goal with steps towards reducing harm considered positive.

People do not like to admit that what they're doing is not working and that they need help. I think it is possible but extremely difficult to get sober for an extended period of time by yourself because the brain is chemically changed after a person uses to the point

where an addiction is developed. I also believe people do not access chemical dependency services because of fear of law enforcement, shame of asking for help, or a belief that there is no way to stop using. Because the Harm Reduction Model meets people where they are at, it makes achieving goals easier by taking a step-by-step approach that allows the addicted person to feel like achieving sobriety is possible.

There is currently no set definition of harm reduction. One definition comes from the Fourth National Harm Reduction Conference in 2002: 1. Modality of working with individuals and communities to minimize adverse consequences of drug use. 2. A movement for social justice.

I like the harm reduction approach because it treats the addicted person as a sick person who needs to get well, not as a broken person who needs to be fixed. I think it is easier for a person to feel love and heal when they don't feel alienated. Treating an addict like they're broken only pushes them farther away.

In my opinion, the United States is the country that is most against harm reduction because the government makes too much money treating addicts like criminals. I believe the war on drugs will not get any better until government officials open their eyes and take a more realistic approach to treating addicts. Violence is wrong. Rape is wrong. Hate is wrong. Taking drugs is a person's choice in the beginning but when the brain chemistry

changes and addiction is developed it's not just a matter of free will. It will also kill them in the end, but they won't get help until they feel they need it. Harm reduction makes treatment more accessible because the majority of the people who are out there using aren't going and knocking on the doors of out-patient treatment centers.

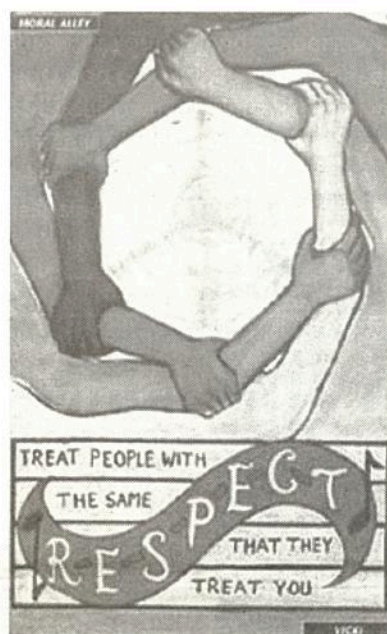
Outreach and education are a big part of harm reduction. Outreach workers go out to neighborhoods and the streets where addicts are and help educate them about what services are available — like needle exchange and free or low-cost health care — what drugs are doing physically, and referrals.

I interviewed two drug and alcohol counselors in Seattle to get their opinions on drugs, treatment, and addiction. One was with Johnny Ohta, a chemical dependency counselor for Ryther Child Center at the University District Youth Center and Spruce St. Secure Crisis Residential Center. The other was with Martha, a chemical dependency counselor for a non-profit

organization.

**Why did you become a chemical dependency counselor?**

**Johnny Ohta:** After having a counselor explain



Graphic by Vicki, produced for the Canadian Harm Reduction Network.

REDUCTION CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Founded in Seattle, Washington, 2001

## 2003 Foster Care Conference

SHAY DENEY

**THIS YEAR'S FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE** will be held in Wenatchee, Washington, September 30 through October 2, at the Wenatchee Convention Center. This year's title is "Supporting Families Through the Winds of Change."

I recently spoke with Darlene Flowers, the Executive Director of FPAWS (Foster Parents Association of Washington State), about this year's conference. Flowers informed me that there will be five topics discussed at this three day event: self care, support services, managing behavior, understanding, and ethnic discovery. When asked about the goals of these conferences, Flowers stated, "What we want to do is train the foster parents to empower the kids."

This year, our very own bird, Jim Theofelis, is scheduled to speak, along with Kikora Dorsey, who works in kinship care at Casey Family Foundation. There will also be a memorial for the former head of

the state Department of Social and Health Services, Rosie Oreskovich, who recently passed away.

Anyone who is associated with foster care, including kinship providers, or those interested in kinship or foster care is welcome to attend this conference. To make reservations, call Preferred Planners at (425) 485-7776 or e-mail FPAWS at [Fpaws@fpaws.org](mailto:Fpaws@fpaws.org). Foster care parents are also eligible for a scholarship, but they are limited, so if you're short on money but really want to go to this year's conference, e-mail or call A.S.A.P. If you are planning to go with a group, all reservations should be made by September 1.

You can get the complete Foster Care Conference booklet at [www.fpaws.org](http://www.fpaws.org). In the back of the printable booklet you will find a registration form if you would rather register by mail. In my opinion this is definitely worth going to. Hope to see you there!



# Letter from the Editor

**THIS ISSUE MARKS** the second anniversary of the *Mockingbird Times*. To be sure, it's been one heck of a ride, especially given the current economic climate and world events.

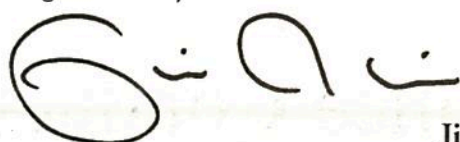
Despite the many challenges faced in the last two years, Mockingbird has grown in so many ways. We have increased our inaugural circulation of 13,000, mostly distributed throughout the Seattle/King County area, to a current circulation of over 26,500 issues, distributed across Washington and all fifty states. We have grown from a team of three youth writers and three part-time staff to a team of seven youth writers (and still no full-time staff). We now have youth from around the state who submit articles for publication and distribute the *Mockingbird Times* throughout their community.

I am proud to note that we have met our business goal and produced an issue of the *Mockingbird Times* every month on time and (as the youth are happy to note) we have never missed a payroll obligation. I am especially proud that we have created a genuine vehicle for young people to speak out about their experiences

and world view. Regularly receiving letters from youth, teachers, counselors and parents affirms the value of the *Mockingbird Times* as a voice for young people who are too often invisible to the "system" and the community at large.

We hope to continue to grow both in circulation and in the quality of our stories. Although our future is precarious (mostly financial) there are also some very exciting opportunities on the horizon for Mockingbird. While we currently produce the *Mockingbird Times* and all business associated with the Mockingbird Society in an office less than 400 square feet, we have been invited to move into a new space in December which will more than double our space. We have an exciting new partnership with Integy Entertainment (see related article) and we continue to receive outstanding training, mentoring, and support from the good folks at *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

In addition, we expect to have our Youth Speakers Panel ready for 2004 and have attracted the attention of several foundations, whose support will assist Mockingbird in making it to our third anniversary and beyond. You can help us as well. Please consider a donation to mark our second anniversary. It's an opportunity to contribute to a program that teaches youth the value of hard work, the power of the pen (or keyboard) and the rewards of advocacy. Do your part as we embark on another year of "building a world class foster care system while serving our neighborhood youth."



Jim Theofelis

[jim@mockingbirdsociety.org](mailto:jim@mockingbirdsociety.org)

## ABOUT US:

The Mockingbird Society is a private non-profit organization dedicated to building a world class foster care system and improving the other systems that serve children and adolescents in foster care. The *Mockingbird Times* is a monthly newspaper that is written and produced by youth who have experience in foster care and/or homelessness. All youth employees of Mockingbird Society are paid between \$7 and \$8.50 an hour. Additionally, youth from across the country submit articles, art work, poetry and are compensated up to \$25 per published piece. The *Mockingbird Times* has a monthly circulation of 26,500 copies being distributed across Washington and the U.S.A. Youth involvement is key to the philosophy, values and success of The Mockingbird Society and as such youth are involved in all aspects of organizational development and decision-making. All donations to The Mockingbird Society are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. No part of the *Mockingbird Times* may be reproduced without the written permission of The Mockingbird Society. All contents copyright 2003 The Mockingbird Society.

## REDUCTION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

addiction to me, I realized that he understood me in a way that no one else could. He was the first person who said to me, "Johnny, you cannot do any drugs at all." I became really angry because I realized that he was right.

**Martha:** Addiction has definitely been a part of my life for a long time. It was something that just was raising havoc in [others involved in my life] and my life — as a consequence I became interested. It was something I didn't know anything about and I was really eager to learn about it.

## Why do you think the Harm Reduction Model is not widely employed here in the United States?

**Johnny:** Money. The tobacco and alcohol industry plays some part in that. Historically our country's inability to look directly at a problem and be open-minded about a solution has created political momentum to stay on the course: criminalization, interdiction (spending money on stopping drugs from coming into the country), rather than focusing on treating addicts as people with problems who need help.

## What are the forms of harm reduction that are being practiced here in the States?

**Martha:** Needle exchange, getting accurate education about drugs out there, overdose prevention, peer outreach, shelter systems, safe sex education — especially stuff about HIV and Hepatitis C. Some clinics provide harm reduction, and there's a lot of underground grass roots stuff going on in communities: access to mental health care, access to housing, drug law and prison reform, and healthcare access.

For the full interviews with Johnny Ohta and Martha, go to the website at [www.mockingbirdsociety.org](http://www.mockingbirdsociety.org).



*"Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity"*

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## Meet Our Staff

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### PROGRAM MANAGER

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### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Robby West

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Valerie Douglas, Siri Throm Saxe

### THANK YOUS

*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Martha and Johnny Ohta, Darlene Flowers, Lloyd Gregory and Lisa Smith-Putnam at Integy Entertainment, David Francis

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Seattle, WA 98102

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# Positive Power: Your Rights and Police Power

SHAY DENEY



**Q:** The other day I was sitting on the sidewalk in front of a restaurant and a police officer started harassing me. I don't know what my rights are when dealing with the police. Can you help me?

\* Kevin, 17

**A:** It's a fact... young adults get harassed by the police on a daily basis. Here are some helpful hints on how to deal with the police.

## Citizen's Rights

● **You have the right to privacy.** You are not required to sign any waiver of this right if a news crew is filming any part of your arrest in your residence. If you are out in public and get arrested, you no longer have that right. Because of your right to privacy, an officer can only search you if they have probable cause or reasonable suspicion. They can also search you if they have a reason to fear for their safety. Police officers

do have the right to pat you down. Other than that, they have to get your permission for them to search anything.

● **You have the right to remain silent.** It doesn't matter whether you are guilty or innocent; you are not required to tell the officer anything. Whatever you say may be used against you later on.

● **Any locked bag is considered luggage and requires a search warrant** unless you give the officer permission to search it. This also includes the trunk of your car.

● **If the law permits, keep a tape recorder with you** and let the officer know you are taping all discussions for the sake of accuracy.

● **You have the right to an attorney.** If you cannot afford one, one can be appointed for you.

## Police Powers

**Without a warrant they can arrest you if:**

● You have committed or they have reasonable suspicion that you have committed or are about to commit a crime.

● You have committed a dangerous disruption of the peace.

● You do not give your name or address or show your driver's license.

**They have the following rights to search you if:**

● They suspect that you may be carrying any illegal drug and they take you in front of a Justice of the Peace or a head police officer.

● You are in a vehicle and you are suspected to be carrying illegal drugs, firearms, or stolen goods. They also have the right to seize any property as evidence of the offence. That means your vehicle as well if they suspect that you have used it or are going to use it to commit an offence.

● They have a warrant to enter and search your premises (by force if necessary) for the purpose of arresting you for committing a felony.

● You are a passenger on or from a ship or aircraft and you are suspected to be carrying any prohibited goods. You may require to be taken in front of a Justice of the Peace or a head police officer to be searched.

**The police must:**

● Tell you the nature of the charge at the time of your arrest.

● Show you an arrest warrant as soon after your arrest as practical.

● Allow you to contact a friend, family member, or attorney as soon after arrest as possible.

● Allow you to talk to your attorney in private after arrest.

**The police may not:**

● Make you accompany them to the Police Station unless they have arrested and charged you with an offence.

● Make you give your fingerprints unless ordered by a senior police officer.

● Make you answer questions, make a statement, or sign one without your wanting to do so.

● Make any promises or threats in order to obtain a statement from you.

## Arrest

**If you are arrested, you are advised to:**

● Insist on telephoning an attorney, a friend, or relative.

● Make no statement other than to give your name and address, if asked.

● Not to discuss the matter with which you are charged without legal advice.

● Request that any property taken from you at the time of arrest is packaged and sealed in your presence and a list be made and a copy given to you.

● Be courteous and polite to all members of the police force. This may save you from getting more time and you will benefit from it in the end.

● Ask the officer in charge for bail. If he refuses, ask to be taken immediately before a Justice of the Peace or the Court if you feel you deserve bail.

● If you are physically hurt at the time of arrest, consult a doctor immediately or at your earliest opportunity.

● Not sign any written statement unless you wish to do so and you are sure that the statement has only what you wish to say.

\* Names have been changed. For more information on your rights and police power, visit [www.copcrimes.com/terrystop.htm](http://www.copcrimes.com/terrystop.htm). We'll address the issue of what to when your rights are violated in an upcoming Positive Power.

# Keeping an Eye on Police Conduct

DARIUS REYNOLDS



**OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS,** police misconduct seems to have increased around the United States. From my direct experience I have witnessed an extensive amount of misconduct toward homeless people. I would like to know why the community and the government allow this to continue. I believe that people see what is going on and choose to ignore it.

There have been many incidents that have been overlooked when there should have been consequences. For example, in 1999, there was a report from [www.narpa.com](http://www.narpa.com) about an unarmed homeless man in New York who was shot in the chest by an off-duty police officer because he wouldn't stop washing the officer's windshield. The officer had a non-jury state trial and was found innocent of all charges. According to a November 1999 issue of the *Oregonian*, a 19-year-old girl in Portland said that the police kick homeless youth in the head to wake them up when they sleep under the bridges. These are just a few examples of many reports filed over the last few years.

I interviewed a youth advocate named David Francis to get a good idea of what his organization is doing about police conduct in the University District in Seattle. David feels that the police are only targeting the homeless and not helping the youth and therefore not doing their job correctly. The police are pushing the youth further away from the services they need to get themselves off the streets. "The youth will be gone but the drug dealers will still be out on the streets," says David.

I asked David what he thought about how the police

handled the rallies we've had in the city, and he thinks the police need more training in those situations. David also states that we need "a true citizen's review board" and that we will have one soon. David mentioned the Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) but he says that it is not a true citizen's review board.

At the time I didn't know what the OPA was, so I did a little research on it and found out that it's a review board for citizens to send reports on police conduct. The director of the OPA is also a civilian and reports directly to the Chief of the Police. The OPA also has an auditor who audits all the complaints and makes a public report to the mayor and council. After the meeting with the mayor, the board advises the city council on policies and procedures and ensures police accountability.

I asked David what he would like to see changed in the near future and he seemed really passionate about the community taking care of each other as a whole and being responsible for our families. Our neighbors should "raise each other." David told a story about when he was a kid. He would get in trouble and his parents would know about it before he got home because his community was very connected. The last question I asked David was if he thought there were any police who have a positive effect on the homeless youth on the Ave., a popular hangout for homeless and street youth in Seattle's University District. David answered, "I'm not sure that relationship is there yet."

I feel that all the information I have acquired in this article really supports my views on police conduct and something needs to change. In order to make things change we all need get to involved with the community and put our ideas together.

If you are interested in being a OPA board member, you can contact the city council member Jim Compton at: 600 Fourth Avenue, 11th floor, Seattle, WA 98104-1876



# Now Dear, Wear Something Casual!

BRIDGETT SIROSHTON



FOR MANY OF US, fashion plays a big part in how we view ourselves, and for that matter how others view us as well. I recall the days of my parents thinking, "Why does she wear a suit and have fuchsia orange hair?" It all goes with identity; who we are and who we want to become. Some kids start young; playing with the idea of how to look completely different. But in mainstream society, my generation is toying with different scenes and where they fit in.

Today you see the punks with mohawks and Goths with porcelain white faces and gobs of eyeliner. You see Eminem castoffs who could have been in rap or hip-hop music videos. You see party kids who go to raves (even though they hate to be called Ravers, that's what they are) dance a little, wear the huge pants, and wear

"candy" plastic-beaded bracelets. As much as it might be a shock to parents and relatives, these people are looking for their niche in society and in life.

So why do kids and people change? Because that's what humans do: we evolve and adapt. And last seasons Hot-Topic capris don't look as good as this year's pants.

I love fashion and toying with the concept of looking different from yesterday. If that's changing my hair color or just changing my shirt — if that's what makes me happy for the moment — then yeah I'm going to go all out! Although my father likes me with a "normal" hair color, I liked the bright blue highlights I had in my hair,

and the green bangs — that was really fun. The point I'm trying to get to is that everyone does it; they experiment with new ideals and a flat-out new look. When your parents tell you, "Now what are you doing, go and change," are they just jealous that they can't look like that, or is it just too "new"? For trying to be my individual self, I have had to deal with quite a lot growing up in Idaho and Washington, since the Northwest at times feels like the back woods. People seem so narrow minded about fashion and identity even though it's a big city. I've been into New-Wave, I've been a Goth with my black hair and wearing the most ivory color of foundation, plus wearing all black. I've been a Raver, although I hate recalling that time period because of the kids that are associated with that scene.

I guess I consider myself a Glam-Punk-Rocker: someone with all the angst and hatred but who still knows where the mascara and the lipstick is — oh, don't forget the bleach. Fashion is your friend: experiment, be different, don't do what everyone else is doing, be your own individual self and love it. No matter if you're 15 or even 45 — be a trend setter. I feel like one all the time, especially since I'm a girl-skateboarder. I guess you don't have as many in Seattle as California does.



# Musician Offers Jazz to the World and to Help Mockingbird

COURTNEY KONIETZKO

THE MOCKINGBIRD TIMES went down to Integy Recording studios to get acquainted with Lisa Smith-Putnam, the CEO of Integy Entertainment, and to check out the place. As usual, parking was scarce and the mad hunt for a space caused Dennis and I to be dropped off in front of Integy. We approach the door cautiously, afraid it wasn't Integy. We are relieved to hear a friendly voice say come on up. Getting the experience of "hands on" out in the field is one of the cool things about this job. A sense of networking. Of something bigger. I like interviewing live people. They seem to add more fire for better articles because it's more personal. Today we are here to interview Lloyd Gregory, the first jazz musician signed by Integy Entertainment at its new Seattle base.

After the introductions and small talk I am left to interview Lloyd Gregory. I am nervous and want to make a good impression. This is my first interview with someone who I do not know. We are on speaker phone. Lloyd laughs a lot, which makes me laugh, helping to break the ice. He seems like a cheerful man, intensely spiritual as well. Lloyd Gregory has put out four albums as a jazz musician and is a second degree black belt. He has studied martial arts for 20 years. Here's the Q and A with Lloyd:

**Integy Entertainment is collaborating with Mockingbird Society as part of an effort they are making to help out their community. To establish their support, Integy has generously offered to donate one dollar on every record sold by one of their premiere artists, jazz musician Lloyd Gregory. If you are interested in learning more about this connection and how to support the Mockingbird Society, visit our website at [www.mockingbirdsociety.org](http://www.mockingbirdsociety.org) Make sure to check out Integy Entertainment at [www.integyentertainment.com](http://www.integyentertainment.com).**

Both require practice and dedication, focus and concentration... both are art [forms] that are based on scientific principals... both require years to develop.

**Do you think music is like martial arts at all?**

**What is the best advice you have for an aspiring musician?**

Get a good teacher, study your instrument... practice, study music theory... listen to all kinds of music... it takes 10 hours of practice a day, seven days a week, for 15 years before you can begin to compete with players who are out there because they have all put in that time at one time or another. If you plan to do it for a living, [those are] just the basics.

**Why did you choose the Ovation Custom Legend and Yamaha Electric over other guitars?**

I fell in love with the Ovation while it was hanging in a store window. The Yamaha — I was working at Guitar Center when they bought out the whole stock of Yamaha guitars, I guess from the factory. I went through

all of them and put the best sounding one in the back on hold and bought it.

**Do you have any female influences/inspirations?**  
Alice Coltrane, Bonnie Raitt — love her music — Mary McCreary, Lady Bianca, Enya.

**Do you have any knowledge or advice to give our young readers?**

Take advantage of opportunities. Always apply yourself in a positive way. Be respectful to those who extend themselves to you. Be willing to give to another. Whatever you put out in the Universe it comes back to you.

You can buy Lloyd Gregory's new CD, Free Falling, online at [www.integyentertainment.com](http://www.integyentertainment.com).

## Poetry Corner

### Warped and Twisted

Harsh words and violent blows,  
Hidden secrets no one knows.  
Hands are fisted, eyes are opened,  
Deep inside, I'm warped and twisted.  
  
So many tricks and so many lies,  
Too many wheres and too many whys,  
Nobody's special, nobody's gifted,  
I'm just warped and twisted.  
  
Listening loudly to a silent scream,  
Call my mind, the numbers unlisted,  
Lost in someone so warped and twisted.  
  
Burned out, wasted, empty, and hollow,  
Today is just yesterday's tomorrow.  
The sun died out, the ashes shifted,  
I'm still here, warped and twisted.

— ROBBY WEST